

# HALESOWEN CHRONICLE



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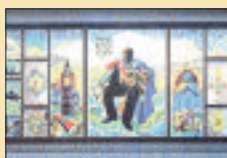
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## Churchill push

MP kicks off campaign to restore tribute to leader

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## Boxing clever

Club using sport as a therapy to help young

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## Founder spot

Old Halesonian Reg steps out for his fifth decade

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## Mother hurt by 'showoff' in BMW

A DRIVER who mowed down a mother in Dudley when he mounted the pavement while "showing off" in his BMW has been jailed for two-and-a-half years and banned for five.

Victim Julie Doswell pushed her daughter and friend aside before being pinned to a wall.

The 48-year-old almost lost a leg when 23-year-old Subhan Nawaz hit her.

Nawaz was "fishtailing" with smoke pouring from the screeching tyres of the BMW M3 convertible when he lost control in High Street.

The car mounted the pavement mowing down Mrs Doswell, her 15-year-old daughter Alex and friend Lucy Waterson who had just left The Venue restaurant at 10.30pm, prosecutor Miss Helena Miller told Wolverhampton Crown Court.

Mrs Doswell suffered multiple fractures and spent three months in hospital.

Mrs Doswell, who said Nawaz was showing off, was not in court but said in a statement: "My life has been turned upside down and I am totally dependent on my husband."

Mr Andrew Molloy, defending, said: "This vehicle had been given to him by his father who very much regrets the present."

Nawaz, from Wellington Road, Dudley admitted dangerous driving and inflicting grievous bodily harm.

## Fuel thieves to be tackled

Petrol stations in Brierley Hill have been targeted 16 times so far this year by thieves who left without paying for fuel.

Asda at Merry Hill; Shell in Brette Lane and Snax in Pedmore Road are among the stations hit.

Police have now launched an operation which will see a greater presence on the forecourts and a sharing of suspect information between stations.

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# COVENANT ROW HITS £18m DEAL

by Andrew Turton

**CAMPAIGNERS** in Cradley protesting against an £18 million retirement village have called a public meeting to voice their fears saying the council failed to reveal a covenant protecting the area.

Planning approval has already been sealed for the 120-home extra care housing scheme on the former Cradley High School site next to Homer Hill Park.

But the Cradley park's friends group have demanded answers from Dudley Council over claims the authority failed to highlight the covenant protecting neighbouring parkland from development. They say the covenant protects the park for recreational use but plans to reopen an access road running alongside the park, off Slade Road, to service the housing site would constitute a change of use and force a planning rethink.

Councillor Tracy Wood, has dismissed the claim saying the planning permission did comply with the covenant.

Planning approval was granted last month for the new retirement homes, marking the third such scheme in the borough by developer Midland Heart.

Dudley Council leader, Councillor David Sparks, is expected to attend a meeting to talk to residents about their concerns.

Homer Hill Park was created after Benjamin Hodgetts, a businessman and chain-maker, helped purchase the land in 1920. He was also chairman of Cradley Parish Council which was abolished in the mid 1920s.

### Control

The land has been managed by the Homer Hill Recreation Ground Trust ever since and this subsequently came under the control of Dudley Council over the years.

Cradley councillor Richard Body claims people were unaware of the existence of the trust until after the planning committee granted approval for the scheme at last month's meeting.

He says friends group members feel there has been a lack of consultation, adding: "Dudley Council can't take or give what legally doesn't belong to them."

"The land was left in trust for the people of Cradley for recreation purposes only. If the residents had been aware of the existence of the trust and the covenant then there would have been many more objections."

Friends group member Harry Bloomer confirmed a letter had been sent from the organisation's solicitors to Dudley Council seeking answers on the trust.

A Cradley area community forum meeting is taking place on March 27 at Providence Church, in Windmill Hill, Cradley, starting at 7pm.

Mr Ramzan, a former Leasowes High pupils, said: "I went to that school in the 1990s and what happened to Christina was really local and it felt really close to us. We just wanted to help."

Phillip Simelane, 22, of Walsall is charged with her murder.

Christina Edkins

Memorial football match organiser Syd Ramzan, along with Asda colleague Daniel Perry, said the teams will be from Asda Halesowen and Asda Dudley. The match is taking place on Easter Sunday, March 31 at 7pm, at Lye Football Club. The players will each donate £5 and there will also be collection bucket.

Two supermarket workers are now planning a fundraising match for her family.

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## Memorial match for tragic Luke



Team captain Josh Patton, aged 16, from Halesowen, and Luke's father Matthew Chapman and friend Ashlee Bourne, aged 16, from Hagley, at the memorial match

RUGBY players lined up to take part in a tournament in memory of a tragic teenager.

Luke Chapman, aged 15, died from a sudden, irregular heartbeat while playing rugby for Hagley's Haybridge High last March.

The Sun at Romsley, near Halesowen, arranged a tournament in his memory to raise money for Cardiac Risk in the Young (CRY).

Hundreds showed up to see the six under-16 teams play at Luke's old club Old Halesonians at Hagley's Wassell Grove. Luke's

grandfather Alan Chapman, of Barnetts Green, Kingswinford, said the event was a "wonderful tribute" to a young man who had been so passionate about the sport.

Mr Chapman, aged 72, said: "I think if Luke could have seen this, he'd have been so proud. He loved his rugby."

Luke, of Meadowcroft, Hagley, had been playing rugby when he died from sudden adult death syndrome a year ago.

Mr Chapman said events since Luke's death had raised more than £16,000 for CRY.



Luke Chapman

## Masked hammer robbers grab cash

A MASKED gang shoved an elderly woman and left a security officer shaken before grabbing £23,000 outside a post office in Dudley.

Two men armed with sledgehammers wrestled a cash box from the officer as he walked into the Post Office branch in Lifestyle Convenience store, Russells Hall Road, Pensnett, just after 8am on Thursday.

They smashed open the box and fled with the cash in a waiting getaway vehicle, hurling the hammer through the windscreen of a security vehicle.

The elderly woman was pushed into the shop and was left in tears.

Postmaster Joe Jawandha, who was forced to close following the raid, described the robbers as "idiots".

"It's upsetting for me because a lot of people rely on this post office for their pensions each week," Mr Jawandha, who has been postmaster for five years, said.

"I'm more concerned about the elderly lady who was pushed than the money taken at the end of the day - lives come before money and its lucky no-one was hurt."

Counter assistant Naren Patel, who rang 999, said: "Everyone was shaken."

Last April, two men threatened a security officer with an axe outside the post office.

## Line-up set for festival

A MUSIC festival is finalising the line-up. Stourbridge Blues Festival has been planning to provide a stage for the best local acts to play together on May 18.

Eleven performers have already joined the bill for the 12-hour long event to be held at Stourbridge Rugby Club's Stourton Park.

Cash raised will be donated to Stourbridge's Mary Stevens Hospice, Hagley Road. Tickets are priced at £10 and are available online at [www.stourbridgeblues-festival.co.uk](http://www.stourbridgeblues-festival.co.uk) or at the club.

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## Rounding up horses costs £150,000

ALMOST £150,000 has been spent on rounding up stray horses in Dudley borough in the past two years, new figures show.

Officials from Dudley Council say they are committed to tackling the problem and are working with the RSCPA and police.

Further talks are also planned to discuss how to improve the welfare of strays seen grazing in the borough. Latest figures show 257

horses were impounded across Dudley between April 2011 and last month as the authority grappled to get a grip on the problem.

In total, £75,484 was spent on rounding up horses in 2011-12 and £72,620 has so far been paid out during this financial year.

The council has paid a horse bailiff to seize horses seen illegally grazing on council-owned land. It has also been forced to pay out

for a contractor to collect horses found straying into roads under an arrangement reached between council officers and police.

Officials revealed, through a Freedom of Information request, that only seven horses were successfully reunited with their owners in the past two years. One that was impounded had to be put down.

The council has previously confirmed more than 170 horses which

were found to be strays were rehomed while a further 59 are waiting to be found new owners.

But they moved to allayed fears, stating no horses impounded had been being slaughtered for the human food chain in light of the recent horse meat scandal.

The council took action to reduce the number of wandering horses after complaints about them running into the road.

## Forecourt fuel-theft campaign by police

A CRACKDOWN has been launched on drivers who do not pay for their fuel after a spate of thefts at petrol stations in Brierley Hill.

Police will be stepping up patrols and encouraging station bosses to share details on suspects as part of Forecourt Watch.

The initiative will start at Asda, Merry Hill; Shell, Brierley Lane, Jet, Dudley Road, and BP Snax, Pedmore Road.

It follows 16 fuel thefts in the ward so far this year, including 12 at the Asda station, three at Shell and one at Snax.

Pc Wayne Trueman, from Brierley Hill police station, said: "We hope that the introduction of Forecourt Watch will send a clear message to criminals.

"We will be looking to prosecute anybody who is caught committing this crime, and by sharing information with the local petrol stations we hope to be able to prevent further offences from being committed."

Thambirajah Prathepan, manager at BP Snax, welcomed the scheme, adding he hoped it would offer his business greater protection.

## Trail in need of walkers

WALKERS are needed for the annual Dudley Trail, which is now in its 33rd year. The event, which attracts hundreds of competitors, takes place on May 5 and offers routes of six, nine, 12, 18 and 26 miles.

They start from Dudley Leisure Centre and are part of Dudley Walking Festival, which runs from April 27 and features a series of walks across the borough. Dudley's leisure chief Councillor Tracy Wood, said: "I would encourage people to join one of the walks on the day, which is sure to be as much fun as ever."

## Increasing skills

A SCHEME aimed at raising skill levels and creating jobs is open to businesses in the Black Country.

The Employer Ownership of Skills encourages employers to invest in their workforce. Employers can find out more at [www.ukces.org.uk/ourwork/employer-ownership](http://www.ukces.org.uk/ourwork/employer-ownership)

## Murder suspect tells of agony waiting for trial

MURDER suspect Luke Walker has spoken of his daily agony as he braces himself for the fight to clear his name in a Greek court – three years after the death of the girlfriend with whom he had hoped to spend his life.

by Louise Jew

Luke, now aged 25, of Brierley Hill, said he is haunted 24 hours a day by thoughts of the trial and the loss of girlfriend Chelsea Hyndman.

He has twice visited her grave in her hometown of Castleford, Yorkshire, to lay flowers since being allowed bail to return to the UK when his trial was adjourned in October. It is expected to

a week, although I'm constantly tired. I'm trying to concentrate on getting ready for the trial – I'd go tomorrow if I could to clear my name.

"I'm confident of the outcome because I'm innocent but there's still that doubt and I'm really worried every day.

"If I'm found guilty of murder I could face life, which could be about 20 years, although if I'm found guilty of a lesser charge it could be less.

"I haven't been offered a plea bargain but if I was I'd turn it down because I am innocent and want to clear my name completely."

Luke, of Gayfield Avenue, Withymoor, claims he took Chelsea to hospital after she progressively felt ill following a night out with girlfriends in Malia, Crete, where they were living and working in bars.

Some of those friends have since come forward to say she fell in the street during the night out and the family now has medical evidence the injuries that led to her death are consistent with that incident.

Luke first visited his girlfriend's grave with his father and mother Lindy and has returned since with a group who were friends of both him and Chelsea.

"Visiting her grave was upsetting but she was the person I wanted to spend my life with, and I just had to go," said Luke.

Patrick, 55, and Lindy, 61, have remortgaged the family home, and friends and relatives are busy raising funds towards the legal fight.



Chelsea Hyndman – tragic

resume in Crete on May 28 – and, if found guilty of battering Chelsea to death on the holiday isle in May 2010, he faces a life sentence.

But he and his family, who have already run up £210,000 in legal and travelling bills, with an estimated £60,000 more to find, are convinced he will be cleared.

Luke, who works for his father Patrick's company Walker's Electrics, Brierley Hill, said: "Mentally it's draining, it's on my mind day and night. My family and friends help me through the tough days.

"I train a lot at the David Lloyd gym in Pensnett and I try to work at least four days



Luke Walker who is on bail from Greece with his father Patrick Walker

## 'Drinking den' death fall

A MAN accidentally plummeted more than 20ft to his death from the window of a "drinking den" after his brother locked him in the flat, an inquest heard.

David Lewandowski, aged 50 – described by his daughter as "chirpy" – used a curtain rail and pelmet to try to climb out.

Black Country Coroner Robin Balmain, recording a verdict of accidental death, said: "Whether deliberate or not is not clear – but Mr Lewandowski got locked in, apparently by his brother, and decided he would get out.

"He was clearly not trying to kill himself and there was nothing suspicious."

Mr Lewandowski, an unemployed roofer, of Cavalier Drive, Halesowen, had 238mg alcohol in his blood – nearly three times the

drink drive limit. Pc Ian Priest told the Dudley inquest Mr Lewandowski was conscious in the back of an ambulance when he arrived at the flat at 5.30pm on August 13.

"He said he had fallen out of the window and I could see the window was open," added Pc Priest. Mr Lewandowski died the next day in Dudley's Russells Hall Hospital from extensive bleeding caused by multiple injuries.

DS Neil Bason said Mr Lewandowski's younger brother Zenon had gone out and locked the door. After the inquest he said he believed the flat had been used as a "drinking den". Mr Lewandowski's daughter Zara, said after the hearing: "My dad was happy, chirpy and liked to crack a joke."

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## Fire alarm raised by milkman

A WOMAN and her two pets were rescued from a house fire in Dudley after a milkman raised the alarm.

The blaze broke out in the ground floor of the property in Edmeston View, Milking Bank estate, at around 2.20am last Thursday.

A passing milkman spotted smoke and called the emergency services.

Startled neighbours were woken by fire crews and evacuated as other firefighters rescued the woman.

Crews from Dudley, Brierley Hill and Tipton were breathing apparatus when entering the semi-detached house.

They helped the woman, in her 50s, to safety.

Chard debris have been left strewn on the front garden with officers still investigating the cause the blaze.

Neighbours Fred and Marilyn Rock, both aged 78, were asleep when fire crews banged on their door.

"There were fire engines, an ambulance and police already outside so it was quite a shock," he said.

The woman suffered the effects of inhaling smoke and was taken to Dudley's Russell Hall Hospital.

Her dog and her rabbit were taken to a veterinary practice for checks.

## Dealers are sent to jail

THREE drug dealers were caught with 1kg of cocaine worth £80,000 outside Pro-Fitness gym, Halesowen. Police pounced on Harjit Dula, his nephew Amarpreet Dula, 27, and Martin Ruddock in the car park in Nimmings Road in January last year, Wolverhampton Crown Court heard.

Police found a cannabis factory at the former home of Ruddock, 35, in Fulwood Avenue, Halesowen. Dula, 43, of Broadwaters Road, Darlaston, was jailed for seven-and-a-half years, Ruddock, of Holycroft, Handsworth, for five-and-a-half years and Amarpreet Dula, of Northolt Grove, Great Barr, for three years four months. All pleaded guilty.

## Business grows

A GROWING business is moving to a new plant. Identec has 20 staff at its factory on the Lye Valley Industrial Estate, Bromley Street, Lye, but this could rise when it moves to Hurst Business Park, Navigation Drive, Brierley Hill.

# Taxis to seek legal advice in white cars row



Taxi drivers outside Beacon Taxis, Dudley. At the front left Shaz Saleem the chairman of Dudley Private Hire Association

TAXI drivers will seek legal advice before deciding whether to launch a fresh challenge to Dudley Council's policy for only allowing white cars to be used for private hire.

More than 1,000 drivers and customers had signed a petition calling for the rules to be changed.

Dudley Private Hire and Taxi Association said drivers were finding white cars too expensive.

They had asked the council's taxis committee to consider introducing a second colour but councillors voted by a narrow margin of five to four to reject

the proposal amid safety fears at a meeting.

The single colour scheme was introduced in 2006 to make licensed vehicles easily identifiable.

But, Shaz Saleem, who runs two taxi bases in the borough and is chairman of the association, had argued that the difference in cost between white and silver coloured cars could be as much as £2,000.

He told the committee he believed customers were used to seeing both white and silver private hire vehicles due to neighbouring boroughs having

different colours. He said he was "disappointed" by the decision not to change the policy.

"We will be seeking legal advice to see what steps we take now."

"I don't feel it was a common sense approach and is not in the best interests of the drivers in the trade."

Councillor Jackie Cowell said: "We do need a distinctive colour in the borough to make the vehicles recognisable in case a serious incident occurs."

"White cars are good because even in the dark, you can tell it's a white car."

# Support grows for restoring glass memorial to Churchill

**SUPPORT** for a campaign to restore a famous stained glass memorial to Winston Churchill in Dudley is growing – with two residents, who have a special attachment to the piece, adding their voices.

Calls to restore the memorial and bring it back to the town were made last week by town MP Ian Austin. And he said the plan had received "huge support" from residents in the town who remembered the mosaic when it was displayed in the Churchill Precinct.

Among those backing the scheme include widow Phyllis Coyle, who has campaigned tirelessly to get recognition for soldiers who served on the Arctic Convoys during the Second World War.

Mrs Coyle lived above the Churchill Precinct for decades and was there on the day the memorial was first unveiled in 1969.

Her husband Mick, who served on the Arctic Convoys delivering vital supplies to Russia, was responsible for looking after the glass panels.

He was also part of the efforts to prevent it being taken down in the early 1990s.

Mrs Coyle, aged 84, of Derwent Close, Pensnett, said: "I lived above the precinct and it was a beautiful memorial. It would be great if we could get this memorial restored to remember Winston Churchill and what he did during the war. You do not want things like this to be shoved in a cupboard."

She has been joined by

by Lee Watton

Second World War veteran and British Legion leader Gordon Willetts.

Mr Willetts said restoration of the mosaic would be the perfect way to mark the 50th anniversary of Mr Churchill's death in 2015.

Mr Austin said: "The response since I launched the campaign has been overwhelming. Residents really want to see this happen."

"I am going to be speaking to the council to find out exactly what remains of the memorial and what state it is in."

"Then we are going to work with glass experts, local colleges and others to see how it can be restored and see where the tribute could go."

Mr Austin has previously said he planned to talk with owners of the Churchill Precinct to see if the mosaic could be returned.

If not, it could be displayed in one of the town's museums or even a new development.

The 17-stained glass panels were designed by world-renowned artist Edward Bainbridge Copnall.



Dudley's Churchill Precinct, featuring the 39ft screen in memory of Churchill, was a riot of colour in August, 1969



Edward Bainbridge Copnall recreates Churchill's face



The main section about to be hoisted into place

## Go signal for depot plan

A MAINTENANCE depot for diesel locomotives will be built at Kidderminster Station following support from councillors. It will house locomotives as they are worked on by the Severn Valley Railway. Storage and changing facilities will also be created at the station.

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## NEWS

THE BEST  
OF PETER  
RHODES

PRESUMABLY the rail companies and Network Rail cheerfully co-operated in the making of the documentary series *The Railway: Keeping Britain on Track* (BBC2). They must be regretting it, for the message, loud and clear week after week, is to avoid trains at all costs. Some passengers are not the sort of people you'd want to share a train with, and let's not even mention the state of the lavatories. This week's revolting scenes of cleaning a carriage at the end of a day's use by the Grim British Public was stomach-churning stuff.

□□□□□□

IF YOU need proof that Britain has a real booze problem, look no further than the assorted slappers, scrappers and scumbags using the trains on *The Railway* to get to and from Aintree and a public rally. There was a time, not long ago, when being drunk in a public place was enough to earn you a night in the cells and a £5 fine the next morning. For some reason, drunkenness is now tolerated by the cops and getting thumped by drunks seems to be regarded as an occupational hazard by train and platform staff. It is all very well David Cameron and his Cabinet agonising over a minimum price for booze but the problem is not the cheapness of alcohol but the lack of any deterrent against those who can't handle it.

□□□□□□

THAT great national treasure Victoria Wood has attacked "enhanced reality" TV shows such as *The Only Way is Essex* (TOWIE) where ordinary people are encouraged to act out situations. She says it is taking bread out of actors' mouths. Maybe it is. But, like it or not, throughout history from Shakespeare to TOWIE, there has been only one measure of successful drama – will the punters watch it? Sadly, no-one ever lost money by underestimating public taste.

**Don't miss Peter Rhodes every Monday to Friday in your Express & Star**

# Tragedy makes parents of granddad and grannie

**FAMILY tragedy has led to grandparents Geoff and June Green stepping into the breach to bring up their teenage grandson.**

Geoff, aged 83, and his 79-year-old wife are now contending with school runs and computer games as they take on the role of parents to 14-year-old Geoffrey Smith. The couple, who were teenage sweethearts and will celebrate their diamond wedding on March 21, were rocked by a terrible year in 2011, when two of their three children died.

In February 2011, they took young Geoffrey into their home in Summer Street, Kingswinford, because of the long-term illness of his mother, their daughter, Jacqueline.

Just a month earlier, their other daughter, Angela, who lived in Spain, died at the age of 47 from peritonitis.

Jacqueline, a single mum, of Park Street, Kingswinford, then died in December 2011, aged 53.

"It was a dreadful time for us," said June, who is treasurer of the Good Companions Club in High Street, Kingswinford, where she and Geoff go for weekly Thursday social afternoons with other pensioners.

"But, when Jacqueline was so ill, we took our grandson in because we wanted to keep him with us – we didn't want him to be fostered out. Our lives have been turned upside down but he's a good lad really and well behaved."

"He doesn't play loud music but he likes all those

computer games." Geoffrey is full of admiration for his grandparents, saying: "It's like a normal family life with them and I love them both to bits."

"I think they are very lucky to be this old and still together after 60 years married."

June added: "Geoff and I work as a team – he drives us to places, like if we have to pick Geoffrey up from Summerhill School after his weekly day at Halesowen College, and sometimes I'll go on the bus back from somewhere with our grandson."

"It's been a good while since we were looking after a teenager – but we're learning all the time. It will either kill us or keep us young."

Geoff, a retired carpenter at Hickman's builders in Brockmoor, Brierley Hill, and June met when she was 15 and he was 18 while they were out with friends in the George VI Park, Kingswinford. He was living at the famous Crooked House pub in Himley, which his father, Samuel, kept for 25 years.

by Louise Jew



Geoff and June Green with their 14-year-old grandson Geoffrey in Kingswinford

## Store has 100 apply for every new job

MORE than 100 people competed for each job up of offer at a furniture store due to open at Merry Hill shopping centre next week.

DFS will create 22 jobs at the retail park – but bosses received 2,497 applications.

The sofa retailer will open in The Boulevard on March 29.

Regional manager Adam Hankinson, said the company had recruited locally.

He said: "I'm looking forward to the opening as we've recruited a great bunch of people from the local community."

The Black Country Skills Shop at Merry Hill shopping centre helps match businesses looking for workers with jobseekers.

Manager Tina Dazell said: "The company may have advertised on its website and people will have been able to apply electronically – so you may have had a large number of people from a wide area applying very quickly without giving much thought."

## Zoo keeps track

A COMPUTER system has been introduced at Dudley Zoo to help staff keep track of the animal records.

The system, called Zoological Information Management System, allows workers easier access to data, which they can then share around the world.

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## Thief with a knife is locked up

A MAN who used a baseball bat and knife to rob mobile phones has been locked up for two years.

Shaquille Thomas-Hodge, aged 18, struck first at the Merry Hill shopping centre where he and an accomplice attacked two people, a judge heard.

He smashed one of the victims on the knee with a bat and stole a Blackberry while his accomplice threatened to stab the other person before stealing a similar mobile in The Boulevard on April 16 last year, Wolverhampton Crown Court was told.

Three days later another mobile and headphones were taken from a 15-year-old boy in Quarry Bank at 10pm. Thomas-Hodge denied being the robber but admitted handling the stolen phone.

He was arrested after he had stolen another phone from a 17-year-old at knife-point, in Deeley Street, Quarry Bank the court heard. Thomas-Hodge, who was living in Wolverhampton but moved to Wretham Court, Handsworth, had a hidden knife when arrested. Mr Ekwall Tiwana, defending, said Thomas-Hodge was He pleaded guilty to robbery, handling stolen property and possessing a knife.

## Railway award

CHILTERN Railways has been awarded transport marketing campaign of the year at the Chartered Institute of Marketing's Marketing Excellence Awards. It runs services to London from Birmingham.

# Fresh call for talks to find a new venue for Heathens

A FRESH appeal for talks over creating a new stadium for Dudley Heathens Speedway Club has been made by club bosses. Around 1,000 fans pack into Wolverhampton's Monmore Green Stadium to watch club meetings since riders took to the track once more four years ago in their temporary home.

Heathens chairman Nigel Pearson said he was "disappointed" talks with Dudley Council leader, Councillor David Sparks, had failed to materialise in recent months over setting up a club in the borough. He said there was no long-term future for the club in Wolverhampton and reiterated the time was right for a permanent move back to Dudley.

## An epidemic of loneliness

OLDER people are in the grip of a loneliness epidemic, according to new research.

More than 66 million hours are spent alone by people over 65 in Britain daily - equivalent to each spending more than 100 days alone each year, the study found.

The survey for the Associated Retirement Community Operators (Arco), found that a quarter feel lonely some or most of the time.

Almost one in five of over 75s sometimes go a full weekend without seeing and speaking to another person. The survey of 1,030 people over 65 found they spend an average of 6.4 waking hours alone daily.

When people were asked what worried them most about getting older, poor health was top with 32 per cent, but having to leave the family home most concerned four per cent. Almost three quarters have not made any changes to the way they live, or made any preparations for their changing housing needs.

Eileen War-Birch, Wolverhampton Pensioners' Convention secretary, said there were a lot of lonely people who wouldn't see people for days on end.

Officials have also held talks with Sandwell Council over the possibility of building a stadium on industrial land in the borough.

The club had hoped a stadium could be included in the multi-million pound regeneration of Castle Hill.

But redevelopment plans for Castle Hill have already been approved by councillors. Mr Pearson said: "We are disappointed we have been unable to have talks with David Sparks about the stadium over the last few months. We will continue to push forward carrying the Dudley name but there is no long-term future at Wolverhampton."

"We have been made so welcome and the Wolverhampton track staff have done a great job but we have to look at plans for our own stadium. Sandwell have offered to investigate industrial sites for us and we have had some dialogue with them. At the moment we have reached an impasse."

Councillor Sparks last week ruled out hopes to build a stadium on Castle Hill but did welcome fresh talks in a bid to find a new site suitable for speedway.

"I'm very eager to have talks and hear the club's suggestions and they only have to make contact with my office at the council," he said. "Castle Hill is not a suitable site for speedway and we are already progressing with plans with the three attractions."

"I would hope that we would be able place the Heathens in Dudley or Sandwell but I personally don't know of a suitable site."

## Chance to dig into new course



Students Jake Beckford and Stacey Walker with director of science Maria Mincher

AN academy school in Cradley Heath is offering pupils the chance to master the skills of forensic science in a new course starting in September.

Ormiston Forge Academy will be offering a BTEC in forensic science at the start of the school year to its sixth form students.

The course will cover criminal psychology, police and forensic procedures and lessons will take place in science labs with field trips to crime scenes and working laboratories.

Students could also learn about other areas including genetics, forensic fire analysis, human physiology and forensic photog-

raphy. Maria Mincher, director of science at the academy in Wrights Lane, said: "This course forms an excellent base for employment in the science industry as well as a route into university if taken alongside other science A-levels."

"This is a subject that provides real-world skills and opportunities for work including blood spatter technicians, crime scene investigators, DNA analysts and many other forensic roles."

"It's important for our students to know that they are able to achieve anything they want."

## NEWS in brief

### Ale tasting time aimed at women

A DUDLEY brewery is organising an ale tasting evening specifically for women.

The newly-opened Fownes Brewery in Upper Gornal has television beer expert Marverine Cole speaking at its event in The Jolly Crispin in Clarence Street, Upper Gornal, on April 18 at 6pm.

The £10-a-head ale tasting will also feature Ali Capper, a woman hop farmer.

Places can be booked for the tasting evening via email to [info@fownesbrewing.co.uk](mailto:info@fownesbrewing.co.uk).

### Guided walk will show listed park

A WALK will be held on Sunday at The Leasowes in Halesowen.

The site is listed as Grade 1 on English Heritage's register of parks and gardens of special historic interest in England.

Senior warden, Antony Ravenscroft, will lead an hour and a half walk.

The Friends of The Leasowes will offer refreshments.

The walk and talk starts at 10am from the wardens' base, off Mucklow Hill.

### Pictures wanted

A BLACK Country artist is appealing for equestrian pictures for a charity Christmas card in aid of the Mark Davies Injured Riders Fund. Contact artist Sarah Stokes at: [info@dy3.co.uk](mailto:info@dy3.co.uk).

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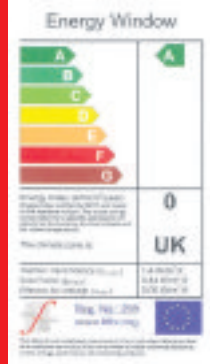
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## NEWS FEATURE

## IN MY VIEW

WITH  
MARK  
ANDREWS

FORGET minimum pricing for alcohol, coffee abuse is the real menace we need to get to grips with if the latest advertisement for the Costa chain is anything to go by.

To those who haven't yet had the joy, a young coffee-shop worker appears to have imbibed so much of the dreaded caffeine that he starts hallucinating about a line-up of people buried up to their neck in coffee beans, their disembodied heads all nodding manically to a sinister soundtrack including the lyric: In the darkness, there's so much I wanna do.

A man, who it should be noted, bears a worrying resemblance to the fellow in the Cortina who used to hang around school gates in those old "Say No To Strangers" public information broadcasts from the 1970s.

I have long suspected that little good comes out of these trendy coffee-shop chains which always seem to be packed with earnest young people who take life very seriously, and it has often struck me that they would be far happier down the pub.

I always assumed they were plotting some sort of global revolution, some new world order where war is a thing of the past, apples are for all alike, and everybody lives in peace and happiness.

But, thanks to the Costa adverts, we now realise that their plans are altogether darker. They are all harbouring twisted fantasies about burying us alive in coffee beans while listening to Kiss's greatest hits.

Which puts a spot of light bawling on a Saturday night into perspective.

BLACK Country mon goes into the hardware shop to buy some paintbrush cleaner.

"Ave yo' gorr any terps?" he asks. "Ar," replies the assistant. "Yo' want VHS or Betamax."

IN what surely sounds like an early April Fool's Day prank, it emerges that the police-backed Crimestoppers organisation is to distribute scratch-and-sniff cards scented with cannabis across the West Midlands force area.

Apparently, the idea is that by making people more familiar with the sweet smell of marijuana, they are more likely to notice whether or not they are living next to a drugs factory.

You would not think it was beyond the wit of even the most incurious neighbours to wonder whether the pungent odour emanating from the empty house next door is a symptom of some sort of nefarious goings-on. But no, it seems that we have all got to get a whiff of the exotic tobacco, just to be sure, you understand.

Presumably the scratchcards will be harmless enough, but has it not crossed anyone's mind that some people, particularly the young, will view them as a little more than a free sample.



Sergeant Marc Bullas of the Dudley re-offending management team



Members of the re-offending management team at Brierley Hill police station

# Teamwork breaks the cycle of re-offending

The Dudley borough policing team has been praised for its success in tackling re-offending. **ALEX ROSS** reports

**CRIMINAL** re-offending is being tackled better in Dudley borough, which includes Stourbridge, than it is in any other local authority area in the country, according to new figures.

And the borough's policing team is an example to follow for forces across the country.

The borough's re-offending management police team was described as the "beacon for Dudley" by Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner Yvonne Mosquito during a visit to officers.

The figures from the Ministry of Justice showed adult re-offending in Dudley was 31 per cent lower than Government predictions, making it the best performing local authority area in England and Wales.

Mrs Mosquito, who was appointed with her boss Bob Jones last year, spent time with officers at Brierley Hill police station with the force's Deputy Chief Constable Dave Thompson last week.

## Integrated

She told officers: "I am very proud of you all. You have done very well and I hope we can use you as a model for the whole of the West Midlands."

"You are at the top of the top division for your work, you are the beacon for Dudley."

The figures follow a six-figure investment 18 months ago which, despite cuts to the police service, was pushed through to help the force bring down re-offending.

Within the integrated offender management service, six-officer teams are responsible for each of the three borough wards - Dudley North, Dudley South and



Deputy Chief Constable Dave Thompson, left, Inspector Eddie Boyle, and Deputy PCC Yvonne Mosquito, at Brierley Hill police station

Stourbridge and Halesowen. Linking with partnership agencies such as Dudley Council and the West Midlands Probation Service, the teams follow high and medium risk criminals through a computing system.

Low risk criminals are monitored by neighbourhood policing teams.

The system allows the offender management service to continually score each criminal and take intervention action when necessary. Measures include home visits and drug rehabilitation.

Each ward in the borough has about

work done by everyone here. It proves that with the right investment focused on the right area, real results can happen.

Future investment is to be made into the service's ICT system which provides graphs showing each monitored offender's criminal activity and the interventions which have taken place.

Supporting the police are a wide range of partnership agencies including Dudley Council, the probation service, Cranstoun housing association and the NHS.

Cranstoun is a contractor which manages drug rehabilitation centre Atlantic House, in Dudley Road, Dudley, and a drop-in drug support service at The Gallery, in Castle Street, Dudley.

Team leader Steven Perrin said the service at Atlantic House supported about 850 drug users, offering overdose management, drug testing and help surgeries as well as treatment.

He said: "The success of the figures is down to the close partnership between the police and all the agencies."

## Addictions

The Gallery was set up primarily to help people affected by drug or alcohol addiction and it provides support through groups and recovery sessions. Mr Perrin said: "We are here to help people change their lives, leave behind their addictions and create stable lives."

Integrated offender management service member Clive Steedman praised the work of the partner agencies.

He said: "The key to our success is that we all work together. When someone needs help, it cannot just come from the police. It has to be a team effort from all angles of that person's life to help them change."

As well as the low re-offending rates, police in Dudley can also boast of a drop in crime, including a fall in burglary rates of 40 per cent.

Neighbouring teams in Walsall, Wolverhampton, Sandwell, Solihull and Birmingham have also seen a drop in crime rates over the past decade.

## THROUGH THE YEARS

### 1983...

THE search began in Wolverhampton to find companies to take on unemployed youngsters as part of the government's new Youth Training Scheme. It replaced the Young Opportunities Programme, which had been criticised due to some employers giving youngsters mundane jobs.

DUDLEY council tenants and home owners were urged to rent out their spare rooms to cope with a predicted 50,000 tourists a week in the borough. Council chiefs spent £30,000 publishing attractions such as Dudley Zoo and the Black Country Museum, but were concerned about the dearth of bed and breakfast accommodation.

BRITISH Rail opened a new multi-million pound train station in Oldbury. The Sandwell and Dudley station was expected to cost around £2 million.

### 1993...

COUNCIL workers in Wolverhampton were facing up to a complete ban on smoking at their desks. Under proposed changes special smoking areas would be provided for staff desperate to light up. However, a report to the council's personnel committee warned this could cost a packet.

EVERY job vacancy in Staffordshire was being chased by around 64 people, as unemployment in the county soared. A report by the Staffordshire Economic Monitor revealed that unemployment in the county shot up by 18 per cent to 48,000. However, unemployment in the region was still lower than the national average.

LENNY Henry was named BBC Personality of the Year by the Television and Radio Industries Club.

### 2003...

A WOLVES-MAD mother-of-three was jumping for joy after scooping a National Lottery jackpot to win £2,000 every month for the rest of her life. Cafe worker Carol Hellend from Wednesbury matched three scratchcard symbols.

A SIXTH-FORMER at a Wolverhampton school was rewarded with a watch - after not missing a single lesson in more than five years. Jonathan Ball clocked up the attendance record at Northcote School, Bushbury.

COUNCIL leaders in Wolverhampton mounted a costly new bid to woo reluctant voters back to the polls. A special guide to voting, costing around £20,000 to produce, was distributed to 100,000 homes across the city in the run up to council elections.

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## LETTERS

# Astounded over Burnt Tree plans

I WAS absolutely astounded when I saw the plans for the redevelopment of the Burnt Tree Intersection, especially when I saw that it was to cost £12.3 million.

Some half a century previously myself and others were surprised that the A4123 was not to pass under the A412 and the A461.

This is what the money should have been used for when the last changes were made.

An island could have been formed over the A4123. With this in place there would have been little or no congestion, (at present there are long queues).

With an island in place two sets of traffic lights would have been eliminated.

In order for shoppers to access Tesco they would have been able to go around the island and return the other side of the A4123 and turn left into the store, (hence not having to cross the traffic line taken by those travelling towards Wolverhampton).

With an island in place anyone exiting the store should have only be allowed to turned left as they could use the Island to go to their right, (again reducing congestion and speeding up travel time). I am sure this would not

have cost more then the present system of traffic lights.

There are other areas in Dudley where with a little more thought congestion would have been reduced. An example of this is the area around Russells Hall Hospital and the end of the Dudley Bye pass. Here there should have been a gyratory system in order to stop traffic having to cross paths, (thus cutting down journey time).

When are the planners going to reduce congestion instead of being responsible for it?

MR D WINTERBORN  
Dudley

## Wonderful afternoon of singing by schools

I WOULD like to say a big thank you to everyone involved in the Primary School Choirs Concert on March 7 at Dudley Town Hall organised by the Jessons School. It was a very pleasant afternoon.

The commitment and dedication of the conductors shone through and the enthusiasm of the children had to be seen to be believed.

Their performances were spot on - across the board. The organisation of all the schools was smooth running. It was well worth the climb up two flights of steps to the balcony. The chamber choirs had excellent singing skills with toe-tapping performances.

Thank you all again for giving the children and audience alike a wonderful experience on a wet, winter's afternoon.

J CLAY  
Enville Road  
Wall Heath

## LETTERS to the Editor

### POST

Halesowen Chronicle,  
Chronicle Editorial, 51-53  
Queen Street, Wolverhampton  
WV1 1ES

Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number of the writer. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

### E-MAIL

Dudley.chrons@  
expressandstar.co.uk

## Not such a good idea on hospital laundry

I AM intrigued to read of the intention of the management of Russells Hall Hospital to reduce expenditure by having staff wash their own uniforms.

It wasn't so long ago that strict instructions NOT to leave hospital premises in uniform were given so that working clothes could be laundered on site.

Reasons given for this were mainly to restrict the spread of infections such as C.diff, Norovirus, MRSA and other less obvious microbes. I assume these have not gone away.

It doesn't need any 'indicate' listing of the body materials a nurse, say, may come in to contact with on a daily basis. It is more likely they will transmit pathogenic microbes, however unintentionally, to persons coming in contact with clothing. Clothing will probably have to be laundered separately and at maximum machine temperature. I assume all have washing machines and dryers.

Overall, and considering green issues, is it not far better from an environmental point of view to have one large specialised unit laundering staff clothes rather than hundreds of separate washing machines and tumble dryers whirring away all over the area?

DAVID ATKINSON, Kingswinford

## Bedroom tax is just there to save cash

The Bedroom Tax is unfair in many respects and I do wish Ian Duncan Smith and others would stop trying to make out it is some kind of attempt at freeing up social housing.

It is a money saving measure and that's all. It must also be remembered that benefits are frozen meaning that to find the extra required, claimants are going to have to accept a fairly alarming decrease in living standards.

Now some will say "about time" I know and to an extent I would agree if we were talking exclusively about the feckless and the idle but this "reform" along with many others instigated by IDS punishes the genuinely sick, those who are not healthy enough to work will still be forced to pay for any extra bedrooms they have from benefits.

ELLIE SHAW  
Forest Road  
Dudley

## Bank Holiday Collections No change to your bin collections over Easter



Blue lid recycling



Garden waste



Household waste



Food waste

If your collections are due please put your recycling and rubbish out by 6.45am at the edge of your property and we will collect as normal.

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## NEWS

# Service will remember devoted teacher Gwen

A MEMORIAL service is to be held for a devoted teacher who taught generations of Halesowen students.

Gwen Lewis spent almost 40 years at the former Halesowen Secondary Modern School for Girls, which later became Windsor High School. She died in August last year, aged 88. Her friend Margaret Thomas has organised a service to allow former pupils to pay tribute to her.



Gwen Lewis

Mrs Thomas, a lay minister at St John the Baptist Church in Halesowen, said Miss Lewis had devoted her life to the girls she taught.

She said: "She threw herself into her girls' lives. Even though she never had children of her own, she had hundreds of girls pass through those classroom doors."

Miss Lewis, who lived for many years in Quarry Lane, Halesowen, began her teaching life at the then Halesowen Secondary Modern School for Girls in her early 20s and stayed until she retired in 1988, aged 60. She was also involved with Girl Guides and running a youth club. Mrs Thomas said Miss Lewis, had been somewhat of a recluse in the later years. The service will be at St John the Baptist Church, in Queensway, on Saturday at 2pm. Mrs Thomas has invited people to bring along old photographs of Miss Lewis. Call 01384 410480.

## Appeal to find relatives

Family members are being sought by the Black Country Coroner's Office after a Wednesfield woman died. Hilda Patricia Gloria Hill, aged 80, died at her home in Peartree Lane on March 5. It is believed she had a twin, Peter, who was last known to be living in Lichfield. Staff at the office also believe Peter had a son. They are hoping to track down relatives. Anyone with information should call 0845 352 7490.

## Having a rhinos about



Boss Bob Lawrence and animal keeper Steph Hodson at West Midland Safari Park, feeding Indian rhinos Sophie and Ram

VISITORS to West Midland Safari Park are being invited to have a behind-the-scenes look at the attraction's rhino facilities as part of a scheme to highlight the poaching epidemic in Africa.

Over the next few weekends, the attraction is giving people tours of its Indian rhino enclosure so they can ask questions and see the effort that goes into looking after the animals.

The tour costs £25, with the money raised boosting the park's research centre in Namibia.

It is in response to the launch of a campaign by Defra to bring an end to poaching in Africa called If They're Gone. On average, a rhino dies every 11 hours on the continent and almost 1,000 elephants are killed

each week. A total of 670 rhinos were killed last year in Africa.

Safari Park wildlife director Bob Lawrence said: "We welcome the opportunity to open up the facility and take people behind the scenes so they can see the work that is taking place at the park."

"We have nothing to hide. We want to show people the care that goes into looking after these animals."

The 100 sq ft enclosure that people are being shown, houses the park's two Indian rhinos Sophie and Ram. It has a rubber floor, to protect the animals' delicate feet.

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5 lb Fresh Middle Loin Lamb Chops .....	£3.59 lb = £7.91 kilo
5 lb Fresh Lamb Rump Steaks .....	£4.79 lb = £10.56 kilo
Dried Lamb Neck Fillet.....	£3.99 lb = £8.80 kilo
5 lb Fresh Shin Beef .....	£2.89 lb = £6.37 kilo
5 lb Packs Mince Beef.....	£2.68 lb = £5.90 kilo
5 lb Chuck Steak.....	£2.99 lb = £6.59 kilo
Whole B/Less Pork Legs .....	£1.68 lb = £3.70 kilo
5 lb Packs Mild Cured Short Back Bacon .....	£8.49 per pack
Whole Horse Shoe Gammon .....	£1.89 lb = £4.16 kilo
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## NEWS

## Club officially opened



Young players, civic dignitaries and club officials in the dressing room of the revamped clubhouse



The clubhouse at Stourbridge Cricket Club

CHANGING rooms and shower facilities at Stourbridge Cricket Club have been officially reopened after a £42,000 revamp.

Dudley Mayor Councillor Melvyn Mottram cut a ribbon to conclude the completion of the improvements on Saturday. The opening brings to a close an ambitious five-year development plan at the club.

Other parts of the scheme have seen the building of a community practice facility and restoration of the clubhouse roof to its original 1920s look.

The club has also expanded its junior section as part of the plan and installed renewable energy technologies.

Mark Ashbourne, the club's grants and sponsorship officer, said the club had turned around its fortunes with the new developments.

"After all the work we have done, this really is the icing on the cake," he said. "A few years ago we were closed to being closed down because the club was in such bad shape. Now it just looks completely different. You wouldn't recognise it. We are really pleased."

# Hippodrome campaigners drawing up benefit list

**CAMPAIGNERS** fighting to save Dudley Hippodrome are drawing up a list of town businesses they say would benefit from the venue reopening.

They say that pubs, restaurants and also taxi businesses throughout Dudley would be boosted by customers spending money in the town as they attend performances at the theatre.

The Friends of Dudley Hippodrome say surveys claim visitors spend at least £10 extra with neighbouring businesses when coming to shows at town centre theatres.

The group projects that around £4million in additional income would be brought into Dudley by guests to the Hippodrome annually.

Dudley Council officials sent the report to Herefordshire based consultants Art-service in January to analyse its viability. The report is expected back imminently.

Campaign spokesman Geoff Fitzpatrick has called on council bosses to think about "the bigger picture" rather than focusing on the presently boarded-up Castle Hill theatre.

"They have the chance to bring something different to

by Andrew Turton

Dudley and we are not looking to compete with Dudley Zoo or Black Country Living Museum - we would offer something that brings people in on night times which Dudley needs," he said.

"Restaurants, pubs, even taxi firms would benefit."

He added that fears visitors would be unable to use the rear car parks owned by the Dudley Zoo would not be a factor in the future for the venue.

Recently the owners of neighbouring JB's nightclub were told their customers would not have access to the car park on evenings.

He said the authority also needed to also consider the cost implications of demolishing the theatre which may impact on already tight budgets at the Council House.

Don't miss the Train to Teach Roadshow in Birmingham. On Saturday 23rd March at the Thinktank science museum.

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## MEMORY LANE



Volunteer Gladys Harvey, back left, outside the canteen at Brocton Camp



One of the sketches contained in the autograph book



A photograph of First World War soldiers walking along Penkridge Bank, Rugeley

## Getting glimpse of life at war training camp

IT contains cartoons, messages and poems scribbled down by soldiers and gives a unique insight into life during the First World War.

And now the autograph book belonging to Gladys Harvey will go on display at Shugborough Hall Museum next year to mark the centenary of the conflict.

Gladys was a volunteer in her early 20s in the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps (WAAC), working in the canteen on the Brocton Camp, Cannock Chase, between 1917 and 1918.

While there, soldiers would regularly make entries in her book.

Examples of these include a cheeky cartoon depicting Gladys picking blueberries, as well as cari-

by Kirsten Rawlins

atures of soldiers. It is also filled with humorous poems and rhymes.

One reads: "The happiest moments of my life were spent in the arms of another man's wife (my mother)."

This was left by a G Mainland on December 12, 1918.

A more melancholy entry is a poem left by Gladys herself in October 1917.

It says: "I walked by myself, talked to myself, and that very same self said to me, look after thyself, take care of thyself, as nobody cares for thee."

The book was donated to the county of Staffordshire by Gladys' son-in-law in 1995 following her death.

Museum development officer

Helen Johnson, described the book as "unique in bringing the whole conflict to life".

She added: "This is a unique object in our collections at the museum."

"It is a fascinating piece of history telling us about one individual's experiences working at the Brocton Camp."

"It's full of quirky poems and pictures and some quite emotive notes from soldiers who wrote in it."

"It's a terribly fascinating item which we really treasure in our collection. It brings the whole conflict to life by having something which you can hold and read."

The First World War training camps over the Chase were the biggest in Europe, with thousands of men travelling there from across the UK and further afield to prepare for life on the front line.



Gladys Harvey in 1918 while she was volunteering



A Scottish soldier goes into battle as depicted in one sketch

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## NEWS

## Soldier Rohit gets ready for challenge



Charity trek – captain Carl William-Fisher and sergeant Rohit Mohan with support staff

A SOLDIER will embark on the challenge of a lifetime when he travels from Oldbury to Mount Kilimanjaro in just 10 days.

Rohit Mohan, aged 36, from Dudley, has served in the army for 18 years. He will journey 10,500 miles to the African peak before climbing it with 12 of his colleagues to raise money for the Royal British Legion and Hire a Hero.

The group will begin their journey from Black Horse Car Sales in Churchbridge on July 18 crossing two continents and visiting 18 countries and will be writing a blog about their experiences. Mr Mohan, who serves in the Adjutant General Corps, said: "This is something we have all wanted to do for a long time to raise money for these two great charities. Once we arrive in Africa, we will climb Kilimanjaro unsupported. For more information visit [www.hahkili2013.com](http://www.hahkili2013.com) or contact via email at [info@hahkili2013.com](mailto:info@hahkili2013.com)

## Postie kept hundreds of letters 'out of stupidity'

A POSTMAN has admitted hoarding mail after hundreds of postal packets were discovered at his and his ex-girlfriend's homes.

Jamie Paterson said it "was out of stupidity" he kept hold of the 486 addressed letters and 161 door-to-door leaflets during two stints serving as a postman in Brierley Hill and Kidderminster. Paterson was also found to have kept 23 Lovefilm DVD packages, including two which had been opened and were missing contents.

Appearing at Dudley Magistrates' Court, Paterson, aged 38, pleaded guilty to delaying post and theft.

District Judge Michael Wheeler said Paterson had betrayed the trust of the public and sent the case to Wolverhampton Crown Court for sentencing.

Mr John Dove, prosecuting for Royal Mail, told the court Paterson, of Sedgley Road East, Tipton, had first worked as a postman for eight days in Kidderminster in July 2008.

He then worked for almost two years in Brierley Hill from November 2010 until October last year, when his former partner found bags of unopened mail Paterson had put in her garage in Brierley Hill.

In total, 296 addressed letters and packages were found along with 110 door-

to-door promotional leaflets, some dating back to 2008 and addressed to homes in Kidderminster.

Police then found 190 letters and packages and 51 leaflets dating back as far as March 2011 at his home address in Tipton. These included 23 Lovefilm DVD packages.

Mr Dove said: "In police interview Mr Paterson was somewhat equivocal in explanation for what had happened.

"He said he had an argument with his ex-girlfriend, went to her home address and said he must have accidentally left mail and forgotten about it.

Mrs Vanita Joshi, defending, said he had not opened any of the mail, but admitted he had breached the trust of the public.

Paterson will be sentenced at the crown court on April 12.

by Alex Ross



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## NEWS

# 'Needless' traffic lights causing driver tailbacks

**DRIVERS** in Dudley claim they are facing delays of more than 30 minutes to travel just half-a-mile due to "horrendous" queues caused by controversial traffic lights.

Residents have long called for the signals at the junction of Amblecote High Street and Trefoil Gardens to be removed as they say they disrupt the flow of traffic. They are one of three sets of lights between Vicarage Road, in Amblecote, and Mill Race Lane, Stourbridge, a distance of only a few hundred yards. Plans to remove them were announced in 2011 but were scrapped by Dudley Council.

That followed a study which revealed the work would cost around £80,000.

But calls have now been raised again to take action over the "unnecessary" set of lights amid claims the problem with traffic at busy times is getting worse.

Dudley Council said it was aware of the situation and pledged to deal with the problem when cash became available.

Councillor Pat Martin said had been inundated with emails and messages from furious residents demanding something be done about the lights.

"I have experienced this problem myself," she said. "One day I turned out of Collis Street and it took more than half-an-hour to get to Vicarage Road - a journey of about a minute or so."

"This was because of the amount of traffic built up because of the lights at the junction of Trefoil Gardens."

## Society talk on Cadbury

THE Black Country Society will hold its annual meeting on March 27, starting at 7.30pm. The event will take place at the Black Country Living Museum in Dudley and visitors are welcome.

After the meeting, speaker Alan Thornton will give a lecture and show an award-winning film titled The Cadbury Story.

## Zumba ladies cause stir



Strutting their stuff - Zumba teacher Tracie Woodhall, front, leads the group's impromptu routine at Merry Hill

A "FLASH MOB" of dancing ladies - most of them grandmothers - surprised shoppers with a routine performed in all their finery after having a makeover.

The eight women, aged in their 50s and 60s, who go to Zumba classes run by Age UK Dudley's Springboard Project, pumped up the volume and strutted their stuff in the middle of the Merry Hill Shopping Centre.

They looked at their best, dressed in posh Jacques Vert outfits as though they had just stepped out of a wedding reception, with their make-up freshly applied by Boots and Marks & Spencer.

Age UK Dudley spokesman Sandy Jones said: "The atmosphere was brilliant and the ladies looked stunning in their outfits. It just proved fashion and feeling good is for everyone."

"Spectators were drawn in by the energy of the ladies and had the chance to win prizes through lucky envelopes being given out."

Retired Brierley Hill GP Dr Anne Bundred, aged 64, who lives in Kinver, was one of the Zumba flash mob.

She said: "We were all in mother-of-the-bride outfits, whereas we normally do Zumba wearing a pair of trousers and a T-shirt."

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## NEWS

# 78 jobs are lost as sofa firm hit by cash problem

NEARLY 80 workers have been made redundant after the collapse of a furniture firm in Kingswinford – just six months after it was saved from another crisis.

Cashflow problems led to administrators being appointed in a bid to rescue upholstery manufacturer The Sofa Club, which was previously known as Kevin France Upholstery.

But it has now been revealed that a buyer could not be found for the business this time round and the factory has shut down.

The Sofa Club in First Avenue, on the Pensnett Trading Estate, was formed when TD Upholstery Ltd bought Kevin France Upholstery last August for £55,000.

It was a "pre-pack" deal, a term used for a quick sale of a company, negotiated before administrators are appointed.

The furniture firm then slimmed down from 100 workers to 78.

However, the business ran into difficulties again and the directors called in Stephen Clancy and Philip Duffy of worldwide financial advisory and investment banking firm Duff & Phelps.

The joint administrators, who were appointed on February 22, tried in vain to find a buyer but eventually had to make all 78 staff redundant four days later.

Stephen Clancy, of Duff & Phelps, said: "We were appointed to sell the business as a going concern and had discussions with a number of interested parties.

"However, the negotiations were ultimately unsuccessful.

## Group's new meeting day

A CHILDREN'S group at Stourbridge's St Thomas's Church has changed its meeting day. Thom's Tots group is for pre-school children and will now meet at the church on Market Street on Tuesdays from 1.45pm until 2.45pm. All pre-school children accompanied are welcome. For more information call 01384 394185.

## Teenagers boxing clever



Ashley Blagrove and Heather Fisher work out at the boxing club

TEENAGERS have been learning the ropes at a Dudley boxing club.

Twelve teenagers from Wolverhampton's Westcroft School have been attending weekly sessions at Priory Park Boxing Club.

They are coached by Richard Ghent with the aim of improving their concentration and behaviour.

Mr Ghent, aged 25, said: "These kids aren't the average kids you'd see walk into a boxing gym. They're children who just need an extra bit

of help. They don't do full boxing but they do partner-work so there's no contact really. It helps them with their concentration and controlling aggression." Westcroft School, on Greenacres Avenue, is for pupils with special educational needs. These can be medical or behavioural. The teenagers are aged between 13 and 16. Mr Ghent said they had arrived at the boxing club with a range of issues, mainly with their behaviour or motivation.

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# School leavers trying out college taster sessions



School leavers looking to take the next step after college can try taster sessions at Stourbridge College

**STOURBRIDGE College** is inviting school leavers who have applied for selected courses, to a range of exciting have-a-go skills events at the Merry Hill Centre.

Having recently been rated 'good' by Ofsted, and with success rates which are significantly higher than the national average, school leavers are being offered a flavour of college life before they start their courses in September.

Anyone who has applied to study early

years, care and uniformed public services this September, will be personally invited to the Black Country Skills Shop, next door to Quest, at the Merry Hill Centre on Wednesday, March 27 between 5pm and 9pm.

## Exciting

Find out about the exciting programme of trips and visits here and abroad, plans for the new Centre of Excellence as well as receiving vouchers off uniforms and support with CRB application forms.

Local girl, Rachael Platt, is flying high

having secured her dream job after completing her Childcare Level 3 course at Stourbridge College.

Rachael has landed a job as a children's representative for holiday company Thomson and will soon be jetting off overseas this April to start her new role.

Gill Coldicott, assistant principal for students and recruitment, said: "We're putting on a variety of taster sessions for school leavers who have applied for various courses at Stourbridge College."

"We also have a series of taster events being held over Easter at our Hagley



Rachael Platt secures her dream job with Thomson

Road Centre for potential A-Level students as well as music, art and design, business and IT and performing arts."

Applicants will be personally invited to the events at the Black Country Skills Shop and at the Hagley Road Centre but anyone interested in studying courses at Stourbridge College, aged between 16 and 18, is welcome to drop in to the centres for advice and guidance.

Full details and registration forms can be found at [www.stourbridge.ac.uk](http://www.stourbridge.ac.uk) or telephone 01384 344400 for more information about courses.



Plumbing apprentice Anthony Parkes was keen to earn while he was studying for an apprenticeship with his dad's business

## Try your hand before applying for courses

School leavers who have applied for construction and motor vehicle courses, including painting and decorating, carpentry and joinery, electrical installation, plumbing, brickwork and the built environment have been invited to have a go at two events being held in April.

Workshops are being held between 10am and 4pm at the Black Country Skills Shop on Saturday, April 6 and Saturday, April 13.

Find out about free personal protection equipment, trade discount cards and the Centre of Excellence.

Plumbing apprentice, Anthony Parkes was keen to start earning while he was learning and decided to leave the graphics course he was studying for at Halesowen College to work as a plumbing apprentice for his dad's firm, MA Parkes Heating & Plumbing.

He landed first prize for plumbing at the college's National Apprentice Week competition and recently bagged second prize in the national HIPEX competition.

# 16-18?

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If you've accepted a place elsewhere you can still come along!





## NEWS

## NEWS

## in brief

## Easter events at Cone for families

STOURBRIDGE'S Red House Glass Cone has Easter events for children and their families.

Councillor Tracey Wood, Dudley Council's cabinet member for environment and culture, said that families could keep youngsters busy, especially with day-long eco and glass schools.

Children must be accompanied by an adult at all workshops. Workshops are suitable for children aged five to 11. Sessions must be booked and paid for in advance.

## Jobs created as company sets up

A NEW firm making steel and aluminium fabrication for the construction industry has opened in Kingswinford, creating seven jobs.

D A Profiles, specialising in work for the roofing and cladding market, has taken a 6,433 sq ft unit at the Pensnett Estate.

The firm makes products such as flashings and fabrications, profiled sheets, purlins and rails, sills and pressings.

It also offers specialist welding services and a comprehensive range of fixings and ancillaries.

## Mother escapes

A MOTHER of four escaped unhurt after a chip pan caught fire after she felt ill and went to rest leaving the pan on at North Street, Dudley, at about 3.30pm on Sunday. Her four children were not inside at the time.

# Mother opens playground in memory of son Owen, 8

**A GRIEVING mother has officially opened a adventure playground in memory of her son – built after his school friends in the Black Country rallied to raise the cash.**

Owen Jeremy died suddenly, aged eight, after suffering an asthma attack at Fairhaven Primary School, Wordsley, last May. He was taken to Dudley's Russells Hall Hospital, where he had a heart attack and died in the early hours of the following day.

The school set about raising £11,000 to build a playground, with rope-style challenges, as a memorial to the sporty youngster.

He was an Aston Villa fan and gained his 50 metre swimming badge only the day before he died.

Owen's mother, Rowena Jeremy, of Primrose Hill, who officially opened the play area on what would have been his ninth birthday, said: "Owen would definitely have approved of it – it's a fitting tribute to him."

She was accompanied by Villa mascot Chip and Owen's grandparents, Sue and Colin Pearson, as she placed a bouquet of flowers under a plaque which reads: "Owen Jeremy – smiling down on us."

Fundraising included a balloon release and a sponsored "bounce".

The bouncy castle session raised £2,700 on its own and parents, children and staff have given generously to the cause. Headteacher Dave Rowe said the result was "fantastic".

"When we talked to

by Andrew Turton

Rowena about doing something in memory of Owen, she suggested the play area as he would have loved it himself," he added.

"Owen is still very much remembered in our school."

He made such a big impression during his life that the school closed on the day of his funeral last June.

There were about 150 mourners his funeral where his father David and uncle Graeme Hull, along with several other mourners, wore Aston Villa shirts.

He was remembered as a youngster who loved superheroes and the school's Friday lunch of pizza and chips.

Rowena, aged 38, is in training to take part in a charity run to raise funds for Asthma UK in memory of Owen.

She will be running the Manchester 10K on May 26 with Lisa Cooper and Dawn Shaw, the mothers of Owen's friends Harvey Cooper and Henry Shaw, both aged nine.

Anyone wishing to make a donation can do so online at [www.justgiving.com/Rowena-Jeremy](http://www.justgiving.com/Rowena-Jeremy)



Rowena Jeremy with pupils, back row, from left, Thomas Chuter, Harvey Cooper, and front, Finley Newey, Brock Collins with Villa mascot Hercules



Young Owen Jeremy, who died after an asthma attack at Fairhaven Primary School

## MP's new helper to learn and support

A BLACK Country MP has said "you're hired" to his new apprentice.

Paige Mills, aged 19, of Fallowfield Road, Rowley Regis, beat 45 other applicants to do support work in Halesowen & Rowley Regis MP James Morris' constituency office.

The position was advertised through the National Apprenticeship Service.

Paige, who attended Ormiston Forge Academy, Old Hill, has started work and will get on-the-job training while being paid.

From September she will study for a Level 3 NVQ in business administration, attending Halesowen College one day a week.

Speaking at the start of National Apprenticeship Week, she said: "I am really excited to have this opportunity and have enjoyed my first few days in the office."

James Morris said the region suffered from a skills gap holding the economy back, stopping businesses developing and young people reaching their potential.

Increasing the number and quality of apprenticeships – in manufacturing, retail, services or clerical roles – was an important part of Government strategy to tackle the problem and boost the economy.

By taking on an apprentice he was not just doing his bit to support local skills and training. Paige would help provide a better service for his constituents.

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## CLUB NEWS

# Howe's that for a name? Thanks a bundle for speaker's straw talk

## MYTIME OVER FIFTIES

MYTIME Over Fifties met for the first time this year in February as the January meeting had to be cancelled due to the bad weather.

There was a large group of members and visitors eager to hear David Howe asking "What is a Name?"

He gave many facts about the origins of names. Did you know, for example, that the "nick" as in nicknames, derived from 14th century "eke" meaning "also"?

British surnames derive from one of four sources, personal appearance/behaviour like White; from a job such as Taylor or Baker; a place, for instance Bradley - meaning a clearing or son of, eg Jenkinson.

Some names also derive from French and Latin sources and over time gradually changed as there was no set spelling. Even Shakespeare spelt his name five different ways and Cameron was originally "crooked nose".

Mr Howe's talk was fascinating and funny.

MyTime Over Fifties meets on the fourth Wednesday of the month at 2pm in the Ambicote Room at Stourbridge Town Hall.

The next meeting is on March 27 when the subject will be "Mother Theresa and Calcutta" by Marilyn Bose.

For further information phone Graham on 01384 393483 or Audrey on 01384 864223



Club president Jean Corns and chairman Mary Jones with speaker Peter Shelley

CHAIRMAN Mary Jones welcomed 38 members to the March meeting at the Kingfisher Hotel, Wall Heath to enjoy a three-course lunch and hear speaker Peter Shelley talk about "A handful of Straw".

He began by demonstrating how to make a corn dolly. His interest began in 1974 and he has been making objects since. He passed around glory braids, cornucopia, horse-shoes, crosses, Christmas angels, a horse and a doll and told of his travels to Russia and Minsk where corn craft is highly valued.

## DUDLEY SOUTH LADIES LUNCH CLUB

The 2013/14 programme includes a solicitor, a former mayor, the Life of Frank Sinatra and fingerprinting. An outing has been booked to Stratford and a coffee morning at the home of Ann & Mike Rogers.

Best wishes were sent to retiring president Elsie Billingsley and a warm welcome to new president Jean Corns.

## Chairman drops bombshell

CHAIRMAN Audrey Phipps welcomed everyone to the 26th AGM including the speaker Peter Moodie, who gave a fascinating talk about the history and work at the Beacon Centre for the Blind, near Wolverhampton.

Audrey announced that a member, Wendy Parfitt, had

## K'FORD LADIES SOCIAL CIRCLE

died and several members had attended her funeral. A minute's silence was held in her memory.

Minutes of the 2012 AGM

were read and approved. Committee members were elected on bloc.

Audrey thanked everyone for their loyalty and hard work before dropping the bombshell that after 30 plus years she was standing down as chairman, to be replaced by Shelia Evans.

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## NEWS

NEWS  
in brief**Boys terrified by robbery at park**

TWO 13-year-old boys who had their bike and scooter stolen outside Lightwoods Park, Bearwood, are terrified to go out alone, a court heard.

Wolverhampton Crown Court heard Adam Rose, 25, and another unnamed person, pushed them to the ground and also took a mobile phone.

Rose of Netley House, Selcroft Avenue, Quinton, who would not name his accomplice, admitted robbery and got a 14 month jail sentence suspended under supervision with 200 hours unpaid work. He was also ordered to pay £315 compensation.

**Bikers' course to increase safety**

MOTORCYCLISTS are being urged to do a course to boost their safety.

Bookings are being taken for the Bikesafe course at West Midlands Police's Birmingham Tally Ho base this weekend.

Trained police biker officers deliver course twice a month between March and October.

Anyone who is interested in registering should visit the website at [www.bikesafe.co.uk](http://www.bikesafe.co.uk) and click on the West Midlands area.

**Relatives hunt**

RELATIVES of James Winder, of Compton Road, Wolverhampton, who died aged 80, on March 2 and Margaret Ganley, 84, of Rowan Crescent, Bradmore, who died on March 8 should call the coroner on 0845 3527490.

# Traffic congestion tackled after worries on pollution

TRAFFIC congestion is being tackled in a town in the Dudley borough battling to improve poor air quality after concerns were raised by the council.

Queuing vehicles on main roads have been blamed as Netherton was highlighted as a pollution hotspot. It came as areas including Amblecote, Cradley and Burnt Tree are also being strictly monitored after concern on traffic jams and vehicle exhaust fumes.

Officials say they are doing all they can and have improved monitoring levels.

Improvements were made at the Northfield Road junction, of Halesowen Road Netherton, after queuing traffic was a problem.

Crossings have been introduced to improve traffic flow and cut emissions near shopping areas. Traffic lights have been upgraded at one of the main bottlenecks on Halesowen Road at its junction with Church Road, opposite the Old Swan pub.

Ward councillor Qadar Zada says they have made good progress introducing measures to improve air quality but this must continue, adding: "We must keep moving forward on this and monitoring air quality following these measures will be key to seeing how well they are working."

He added: "The next stage will come with the changes to public health services over the next few months."

A report on air quality on the borough's busiest roads went to the council environment scrutiny committee.

People can air views at a public meeting on plans for 175 homes on the Hagley Hall estate, off Kidderminster Road, Hagley.

Cala Homes has permission for outline plans but residents fear it will alter the character of the village.

The developer is drawing up detailed plans and asking people for views. A public meeting was due on Thursday, hosted by Hagley Parish Council and Cala Homes at Hagley Free Church.

It follows workshops with residents to get views on detail, including homes style, site design and use of public open space.

Hagley Parish Council chairman, Steve Colella, said that while he disagreed with the decision to approve the scheme, the meeting would give people the chance to discuss if there could be wider benefits from the development.

## Pupils complete powerful presentation



Adults front, from the left, Jaguar Land Rover's Clare Charvill, Leasowes High School's Jo Atherton, school mentoring services manager Chris Bennett, with Scott Williams and Lauren Rowley from Halesowen Audi, and Year 9 pupils and Jaguar Land Rover apprentices at the school in Kent Road, Halesowen

A SCHOOL in Halesowen became a car dealership as students tested their advertising skills in the car business.

Leasowes High School pupils are working on a car advertising project where they design and market a car for a target audience.

School's mentoring services manager Chris Bennett said Year 9 pupils were asked to make professional-looking design boards and write full-page advertisements.

Cars they could advertise were brought to the Kent Road school by Beachwood Audi, Jaguar Land Rover and Acorn Mitsubishi. Dealers gave a talk on car features and on language used in the industry.

Mr Bennett said a car park opposite the English Department was the base for the event and the new Audi R8, Audi TT, Range Rover Sport, and a Mitsubishi Outlander. Jaguar Land Rover also brought along apprentices

who answered questions about vehicles. Mr Bennett said: "We hope it may have inspired one of our students to pursue a career in marketing, advertising or the motor industry in the future."

"We are extremely grateful to the dealerships for offering to support us with this venture."

The event also gave the school a chance to form working relationships with local businesses, said college principal Neil Shaw.

## Depressed car killer jailed for nine years

A MAN who used a car to mow down and kill a perceived love rival at Jubilee Park, Tipton, was jailed for nine years after admitting manslaughter.

David Powell, walking a dog with Jane Parkes, was sent flying into the air after being hit by Malcolm Parkes's Vauxhall Astra.

The widowed father-of-two suffered multiple skull fractures, a cracked spine and 17 broken ribs and died.

Parkes admitted manslaughter on grounds of diminished responsibility and Judge John Wait said depression "significantly" affected his judgment.

Mr Powell arranged to meet Parkes's wife, Jane, at the park on Wednesday, September 5. Parkes, aged 50, overheard and followed.

He told police "he lost it" as he saw his wife with Mr Powell. Parkes, of Arthur Road, Tipton, was doing 27mph-34mph.

Parkes was arrested at his home in Arthur Road, Tipton. Defence counsel Rachel Brand said Parkes had depression after he was diagnosed with a disease which was slowly robbing him of his independence, and had left him in a wheelchair.

After the guilty plea, Parkes's mental state and the fact his physical condition will bar him from activities while in jail, the father-of-two got the minimum sentence, half served on licence.

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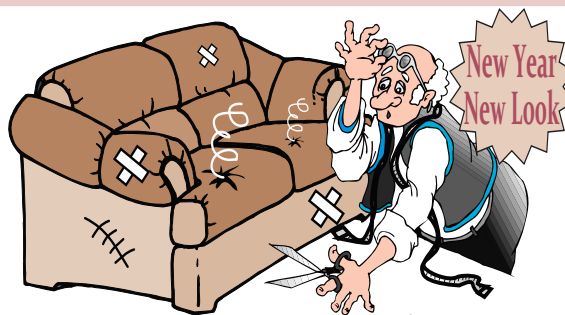
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**Please call the chronicle team on 01384 353234**



## NEWS

# Apprentices get chance to show off their skills



Mayor of Dudley Melvyn Mottram and his wife Michelle meet the apprentices

**CONSTRUCTION** apprentices pitted their new skills against each other in a series of challenges aimed at celebrating industry in the Black Country.

Bricklaying, plumbing and carpentry tasks were among those organised through college tutors to mark National Apprenticeship Week.

Stourbridge College's Advanced Technology Centre hosted the construction leg of the week-long trades challenge series which was touring the region.

Apprentices learning their trade at Stourbridge, Dudley, Walsall, Sandwell and Wolverhampton colleges showed their new skills.

Among the tasks was a four-hour challenge for plumbers to hang a radiator and bend the connecting pipework into place before it was marked by expert judges.

Winning apprentices received top prizes donated by firms from the Mayor of Dudley, Councillor Melvyn Mottram.

Dudley Council apprentice Dan Crump, of Oak Barn Road, Halesowen, won the carpentry and joinery section.

The 22-year-old who is doing his courses at Stourbridge College said: "It has been a good day and a good experience to work under the pressure of the competition."

Fellow Stourbridge College student Anthony Parkes, aged 19, of Eveson Road, Norton, Stourbridge, took part in the plumbing section. He was originally taking a graphic design course but had second thoughts and decided on plumbing with the help of his father Mick who is in the trade.

## Sweet-talking audience

SUGAR production in Kidderminster will be placed under the spotlight during a talk for Clent History Society later this month. Robert Barber will present the talk on March 28 at Clent Parish Hall at 8pm. He is closely involved with Kidderminster Civic Society's Historic Buildings Project and has made a study of the town's sugar industry.

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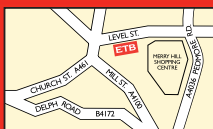
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## NEWS

# New crop of hair salons hoping to cut recession

**A CROP of new hairdressers has moved into Stourbridge town centre – and local traders hope it shows a new wave of optimism for the struggling High Street.**

Two new barbers have opened in the town along with a unisex salon – bringing the total number of hairdressers in the middle of Stourbridge to 15.

While the town has 96 empty shops among around 250 businesses, many traders are pinning their hopes on the expected opening of the £50 million Tesco store to bring a fresh lease of life.

Newcomer Jimmy Trims in High Street opened in December in the former Stables & Co solicitors' building.

Mimzy Khatkar, who co-owns Jimmy Trims with his brother, Bally, said: "Stourbridge is a decent High Street and we could afford the rent here."

In Market Street, another gents' hairdresser, Labichi, recently opened in a former art shop. Owner Hassan Labichi, aged 53, originally from Morocco.

He said: "I've brought my customers with me and obviously hope that when Tesco opens it will attract more. There probably are too many hairdressers in the town now – but the good ones will survive."

A spokesman for Mad Hackers, which has opened at the former Polka Dot Paradise shop on the corner of High Street and Market Street, said the prospect of the new Tesco had given them the confidence to launch a new business. Established hairdressers say they are not unduly worried by competition from the newcomers.

## Food documentary show

A DOCUMENTARY showing a food experiment in Venezuela is to be shown at The Duke William in Stourbridge on March 22. Growing Change looks at how the control of food is held with communities, and not with corporations, in the South American country. The film starts at 7.30pm.



Vintage – Mimzy Khatkar, co-owner of Jimmy Trims in the High Street



All smiles as Hassan Labichi cuts the hair of customer Ben Stanton, 25,

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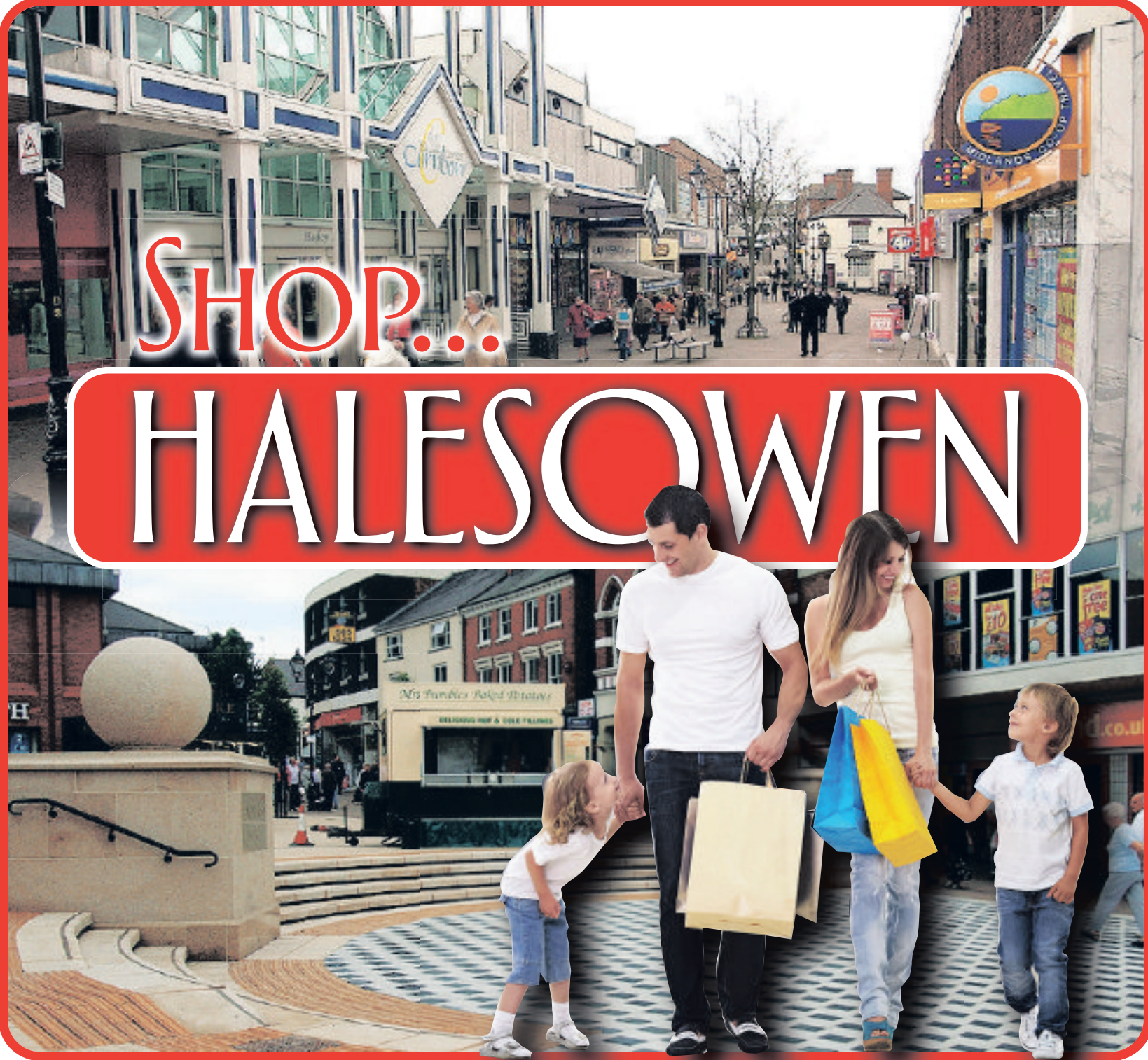
\*The "from" price and price bands vary for each show – see brochure for details. Single room supplements apply.

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## SHOP . . . HALESOWEN

# Yeltz back on community path after difficult years



Halesowen Town has taken massive strides to return to the community club that they once were

**HALESOWEN** Town FC (AKA the Yeltz) is one of the oldest clubs in the county after being formed in 1873.

The first team had been formed out of the Groves' button factory. Halesowen Town joined the Birmingham Combination for the 1925/26 season and since then we have come on leaps and bounds, spending most of our existence in the Southern Premier League.

In the 100 plus years Halesowen Town have been going, we have had many ups and downs; the most significant ups being winning the FA Vase Trophy in 1985 and again in 1986.

Back in May 2011, the club was in turmoil with no clear plan for the future.

The future was grim and many relationships with the local community had been tarnished.

However, under a new owner and a new management committee, we have taken massive strides to become the community club that we once were.

### Wearing

Over the past 18 months, Halesowen Town has rebuilt links with Halesowen Town Colts and Halesowen Town Ladies and now have 14 teams in total.

All players get a free season ticket to the mighty Yeltz and as of this season will be wearing the same kit as the first

team with pride. We have also achieved the FA Charter Standard Community Club status (the highest level offered by the FA).

We were recognised for our hard work by Birmingham FA when we were awarded FA Charter Standard Development Club of the Year at The FA's Community Awards 2012.

Just as importantly, we are making dramatic strides on the pitch as well.

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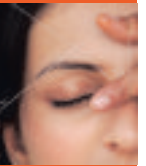
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The Cornbow Shopping Centre attracted 12 million visitors last year to more than 50 shops. Earlier this year four retailers, Scrivens, Roman Originals, the Card Factory and Orange, took long-term leases



# Shoppers arrow in on the £30m revamped Cornbow

**AS MANY shopping centres continue to see a drop in visitors, the Cornbow Shopping Centre in Halesowen is going from strength-to-strength.**

Following a £30 million redevelopment in 2008, Halesowen's shoppers have voted with their feet with a staggering 12 million visiting the centre during 2012.

Eve O'Connor, the Cornbow's centre manager, says: "Retailers are finding trading conditions tough at the moment and many shopping centres are seeing store closures as retailers look at where best to focus their efforts."

"Tough trading, coupled with the increasingly popular internet is putting some shops out of business but since the Cornbow's

redevelopment and ASDA moving to the centre we have seen a real uplift in trade which is fantastic."

"During the week before Christmas we saw a record, 290,000 visitors come through our doors which is staggering considering many people now look to the internet for many of their shopping needs."

"The Cornbow has a good mix of shops catering for all tastes and budgets. In response, we work with the retailers to bring offers to the shoppers and host events which will draw people to the centre."

"Shopping is still a top leisure activity and the regeneration of the bus station, which is right on our doorstep, is also making a huge difference."

The Cornbow has more than 50 shops under its roof including both leading high

street names and independents. Earlier this year it reported that four retailers had taken long-term leases: Scrivens, Roman Originals, the Card Factory and Orange, some of whom have moved to larger premises. Peacocks have also reopened and is attracting new customers.

"Back in 1999 we had approximately four million visitors and this has more than trebled in past years," says Eve.

## Trying

"Following the extension four years ago we have seen confidence in the area grow. Our visitors love to shop and the Cornbow has a real community feel to it."

"It is now more about the whole shopping experience. You can do your weekly shop whilst trying to find something special to

wear or just catching up with friends in one of our food outlets."

"There is something for everyone and with an increase in footfall of 60 per cent since 2007 our visitors agree."

"The investment has definitely been worth it. It has breathed new life into the centre and we have been able to secure big names as they share our vision."

"The town has also benefited from pockets of regeneration and we feel very positive about the future."

The Cornbow is only a 30 minute drive from the centre of Birmingham and on the town's main bus route.

Visitors can find all the latest offers and news at: [www.cornbow.co.uk](http://www.cornbow.co.uk)

Opening times: Monday to Saturday 9am-6pm, Sunday 10am-4pm.



Cornbow manager Eve O'Connor – confidence growing

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## SHOP . . . HALESOWEN

# Haden Hill Centre hosts the Sandwell Aquathon



Haden Hill Leisure Centre will be staging the Sandwell Aquathon for the first time this year

**THE Sandwell Aquathon 2013 will take place on Sunday, April 7 at Haden Hill Leisure Centre and Park.**

It is both an adult and children event that is suitable for the whole family to participate in.

The Aquathon consists of a swim followed immediately by a run. The event was previously known as Sandwell's Triathlon and was held at the old Tipton baths.

In 2013 the event reaches maturity and becomes the sole responsibility of Oldbury Swimming and Triathlon club (OSTC) Sandwell's Triathlon Club.

Knowledge, experience and participant feedback have led to a number of

changes this year, such as date, location, format as well as adding in the option of relays and full sprint distance to this novice event.

A great opportunity for the whole family to participate in the same event! The age range for children starts at eight years old through to 16 years old.

### Fitness

There are five different ranges dependant on age of the child, with the swim distance increasing from 50m to 200m and run distances gradually increases from 600m to 2500m as the age of the child increases.

There is a adult novice and adult sprint event depending on fitness levels, with the novice event including a 200m swim and a 2500m run and the

sprint event including a 400m swim and a 5km run.

Additionally, there is also a relay team of two event which can include a combination of adult/adult or child/child or adult/child. Each competitor competes in their age category.

The entry fees are: £10 adults novice, £12 adults sprint, £8 children/youth and relay team an additional £4. The first swimmers start at 12.15pm at Haden Hill Baths.

To enter: go online to [www.entrycentral.com](http://www.entrycentral.com) and type Sandwell Aquathon.

For more information go to our website [www.Oldburystc.co.uk](http://www.Oldburystc.co.uk) triathlon or email [oldburystc@iathlon@gmail.com](mailto:oldburystc@iathlon@gmail.com)

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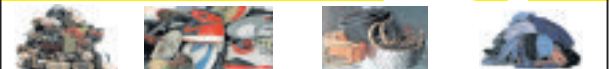
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## SHOP . . . HALESOWEN

# A town centre that has something for everyone



AS A member of the Chamber of Trade and a trader for the past 20 years, I have had the pleasure to watch Halesowen town centre go from strength to strength, writes **Stephen Fitzpatrick**.

We are incredibly proud that there is something for everyone wanting to visit, whether it be a meeting place for friends in one of the many cafes, picking up groceries from the supermarket or choosing a gift for someone, there is a shop or venue for everyone.

Unlike some newly-formed town centres, Halesowen is steeped in tradition and has a rich history. This is no more evident than the mention St John's church received in the Domesday Book.

Over the years the town has seen many developments and regenerations. The early noughties saw the town move into a new stage of its existence



Above the Cornbow Shopping Centre in Halesowen and, left, Coffee 2 in the centre which The Independent newspaper lists in its UK's top 50 coffee shops nationwide

tence with the development of summers square, a space that can be used by both community groups and businesses to promote their work.

Summers Square has also been pivotal in bringing the community together being the focal point for major large scale extravaganzas such as the Christmas lights switch on each November, the Victorian street fair in June and more recently, Halesowen by

the Sea in August. Although Halesowen is a fantastic place to visit for all the family, there have been tough times in its history, none more so than when the town lost its major supermarket a number of years ago.

It was thanks to the loyal customers who travel from the local areas to visit that ensured that Halesowen was able to weather the storm and once again become the hub it is.

## Advertisement

**Delicious dishes are always on the menu when dining at Bangla Lounge Halesowen, with seasonal menus ensuring that a new dish can be found for regular diners. Traditional cooking techniques are used to capture the true essence of Pan Asian cooking**

A warm welcome from Mr Bari Abdul the owner and his staff start the experience off, as you arrive at the stylish restaurant in Halesowen, the licensed bar area is a comfortable retreat to sit and absorb the menu whilst enjoying traditional Indian beer or a wine from the extensive wine list.

The new main menu offers a variety of new dishes from which you may struggle to decide which sumptuous dish

to choose. The tempting offer which runs Sunday - Thursday means your main dishes are half price. Therefore you can select from the Seafood, Classics, Chef Recommendations along with a Healthy Options for those who are looking to watch their post Christmas food intake.

With a combination of freshly prepared side dishes the restaurant is able to accommodate a choice for all diners even those who have special dietary needs. With a host of chefs available to ensure each dish is cooked fresh to order and to your own tastes, all may be accompanied by a choice from the sundries menu.

Appetisers can be ordered from the sharing platter section of the menu or traditional

individual starters to suit your preference. Simply select your preference and nibble whilst you chat awaiting the main event. Extra time is taken to prepare each dish fresh from order allowing you time to enjoy the flavours our appetisers offer.

The Main event can be selected from a variety of styled dishes including the Chef's Recommendations, Tandooris specials, Biryani selection, and traditional balti dishes along with Seafood & Signature dishes. We are able to offer something for every taste.

The dessert menu offers both hot and cold options which you can select from the individual menu allowing you to choose some traditional Indian sweets or light options to finish off your meal. Coffee and Tea is served and along with a liquor of your choice if you should so wish.

The current offer allows you to dine within the well presented restaurant area whilst enjoying the 50% discount on Main meals. Takeaways benefit from a 15% discount and Delivery to your home is also available.



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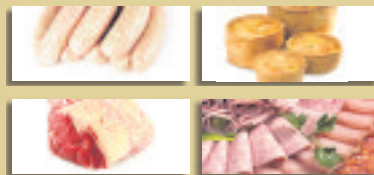
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## SHOP . . . HALESOWEN

# Happy Days are here as The Fonz visits library



The Fonz,  
actor and  
author  
Henry  
Winkler,  
with  
pupils,  
including  
Charlie  
Bastable,  
aged 10, at  
a children's  
reading  
festival at  
Blackheath  
Library

**THERE was a Fonz fans  
frenzy as legendary television  
star Henry Winkler brought  
Happy Days to the region.**

The 1970s American sitcom star may have been used to only female attention as a young actor, but yesterday followers of all ages and both sexes turned out in large numbers to see

him. As part of a two-week nationwide tour, The Fonz, as he was known in the show Happy Days, arrived at Blackheath Library for a children's reading festival, organised by Sandwell Council.

The best-selling author, who has written 23 books, is raising awareness of the needs of children who have learning challenges and using his own

experience of growing up with dyslexia. The Fonz said: "It is one of my favourite things to do, going out and meeting all these fabulous people."

"The tour is about promoting the fact I have written 23 novels and letting the children know, every one of them, that they are great."

"I like to thank everyone for watching the Happy Days too."

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*In the first of a series we take a look at a business that is creating a new blueprint for care in the home. Stiled Home Services demonstrate their credentials as a Business of Distinction.*

## Time to Care...

This is a company that cares, and that does not just describe what they do but also the way that they do it. They have grown organically from a cleaning company that initially introduced "Companion Cleaning" before eventually expanding the operation to complete Home Care packages that are individually tailored to meet the specific needs of every client. As a result they have become one of the Midlands most respected Care At Home organisations and have

plans to extend their services even further in the future.

From short term care to temporary respite care, Stiled Home Services has all the bases covered. Whether you or your loved ones need just an hour a week or full time attention Stiled can help. For relatives this means that they can return to being the relative as their time can be released to "love again" as the burden of more of the day to day duties can be delegated to the Care

Team. This improves the quality and length of time they spend with their loved ones at a very important stage of their life.

Caring for an ageing relative is a skilled task. It is made more difficult as their memories fade and along with it self esteem begins to reduce. Stiled try to slow this process down by the creation of a Reminiscence Book. This records lots of personal information about the client, where they lived,

worked, went to school and other important information about them. This not only helps them to keep their memories alive but just as importantly gives Stiled's carers key insights into the person they are caring for strengthening the bond between carer and client.

This Care at Home business has set new standards in their field which has resulted in sustained growth and expansion. They have pushed the boundaries of excel-

lence and through innovation and endeavour have created a flexible but thorough service to their clients. They create routines that clients become comfortable with and as a result improve quality of time that their clients or their relatives have left. They deliver care, attention and above all peace of mind that you or your loved ones are receiving the best care possible in the surroundings they love.

*There really is...  
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#### Movement:

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Task Completion & Exercise

#### Social Connection:

Discussion and Chats  
Contact with Family & Friends  
Pursuit of Interests & Hobbies  
Keeping Pet Animals

## What Their Clients Say.....

"From my initial meeting with the owner of the agency everything has been organised in a caring manner. She attended Social Service Meetings so knew from the start exactly what issues would need addressing. As well as providing morning and evening care the staff takes my parents to appointments and does jobs around the house. Stiled's aim was to stop me being the carer so I could become the daughter again. This aim was fulfilled within days of them taking over. I know my parents are cared for. The peace of mind is wonderful.

**Elizabeth F** (Daughter of clients)

I have an elderly cousin once removed who lives alone, has psychotic depression and for whom I had the power of attorney. I was at my wits end trying to look after her (I live ¾ of an hour away) and liaise with all the relevant services etc. I first booked Stiled Home Services to come in and do her shopping to at least relieve me of that, my relative was frightened of anyone but me coming in. Since then SHS have taken over her personal care and her housework. Her mental state is now better than it has been for years and she looks forward to them coming each day - they are wonderful.

**Alison W** (Relative)

Friendly, professional staff who visit my mother twice a week (and occasional weekends) whilst I am at work. They help to give peace of mind that my mother is OK and that someone is there for her while I'm away. Someone for her to talk to and can listen with an interest whilst still keeping a confidence, is sometimes just simply of great benefit to her.

**Alan P** (Son of Client)

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Advertisement Feature

# Award winning dementia care in Halesowen

**Almost 1000 Dudley borough residents have been supported by Dudley Council's award winning dementia service which provides innovative dementia care services across the borough.**

Since the council's dementia gateway service was launched last year, it has notched up regional and national awards for its pioneering work. Over the past year more than 920 people have been referred to the service which is run by the council and NHS partners who work together to provide a consistent, coordinated one contact point approach to diagnosis, care and support

The service has three centres known as dementia gateways, in Halesowen, Breierly Hill and Coseley - covering

the whole of Dudley borough between them. Staff offer effective and much needed support to people with dementia, their families and carers.

## Advice

The Brett Young gateway in Halesowen provides dementia services to residents living in the south of Dudley borough. Anyone worried about dementia can call the gateway for advice or to request help, or they can ask their GP, healthcare worker or social worker to refer them.



A dementia advisor or one of the gateway's dementia nurse will then visit the person to arrange a formal diagnosis and to develop a plan of support tailored to the person's own individual needs. This can include attending therapeutic activity sessions, simply supporting people to maintain their independence at home, help and support with getting out and about in the community, providing respite care, as well support and care available for carers and families.

Michelle Nichols, dementia manager said:

"Often people struggling to receive a dementia diagnosis, or worrying about themselves or a family member feel so alone. We aim to make sure that anyone concerned about dementia is given the right information, as well as ongoing support from the first time that they make contact with us.



With the right treatment, particularly early treatment and the right ongoing tailored support, people with dementia are able to lead active and fulfilling lives. We offer all of the support needed. There's no need for anyone to feel they are alone in dealing with this condition".

**Anyone concerned about dementia can call the service for advice or to seek help. Brett Young gateway can be contacted on 01384 813600**

## Worried someone close to you is losing their memory?

**Don't worry alone, Dudley dementia gateways can help**

In Dudley borough we have developed a new approach to the care and support for people with dementia.

Our dementia gateways offer information, advice and real support for people with dementia, their families and carers.

Anyone worried about memory loss, problems thinking or reasoning or general confusion can contact us for advice and support.

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Two days departing December 22 and 23



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André Rieu, the waltz king of Europe, is once again returning to the UK with his orchestra to perform in concert.

There's a choice of destinations: the Echo Arena in Liverpool, departing December 22, or Wembley Arena London, departing December 23.

Acknowledged as one of the world's greatest living musical legends, Dutch-born André Rieu was classically trained, and is now an accomplished violinist, an excellent conductor and a truly great showman.

### INFO

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## REVIEWS

## Top marks for efforts Legends start the party Mystery over accent

**Footloose, Grand Theatre, Wolverhampton**  
TOP marks for Wolverhampton Musical Comedy Company's excellent production. Amazing vocals and slick dance routines showcased the incredible talents of this energetic young cast. David Walters and Holly Stringfellow were perfect as Ren and Ariel. Also strong were Chris Wolverson, Rose Lister and Kathryn Fisher. Alec White was brilliant as Willard and there were exceptional vocals from Franchesca Fogee, Niamh Allen and Claudia Gilmour. **Les Jowett**

**The Dublin Legends, Town Hall, Birmingham**  
THE Dublin Legends, made up of the remnants of the legendary Dubliners, kicked off the Second City's St Patrick's celebrations. Sean Cannon, Patsy Watchorn, Eamonn Campbell and Gerry O'Connor brought old familiars – and a few new twists – to an appreciative crowd. Fans lapped up a string of Dubliners favourites before the band went out with Irish Rover, Whiskey In The Jar and threw in Wild Rover as an encore. **Danny Farragher**

**Roddy Woomble, Glee Club, B-ham**  
IT'S flying in the face of general opinion but, based on this performance, it's hard to see if Roddy Woomble deserves the accolades that have been heaped on him. He is as Scottish as tartan and single malts so it's a mystery why he sings in a generic American accent. His voice is good but not exceptional, there was a distinct lack of enthusiasm both from him and his audience and the harmonies with singer and fiddle player Seonaid Aitken didn't quite blend. **Danny Farragher**

## Still playing with gusto

**The Fureys and Davey Arthur, Concert Hall, Dudley**  
EVEN after more than 30 years of touring and recording, The Fureys have lost none of their gusto and they soon got the crowd warmed up with old favourite From Clare to Here.

They then toned it down with The Old Man, which Eddie and Finbar use as a poignant tribute to their dad.

The quartet mixed it up with a medley of jigs and reels, throwing in a little Scottish culture with Leezie Lindsay. Davey Arthur made his presence felt with The Mad Lady and Me. Another medley of jigs came before the first half finished with their biggest hit When You Were Sweet Sixteen.

One of the highlights was Finbar's own tune The Lonesome Boatman.

They finished off with some of their best known songs The Red Rose Cafe, Green Fields of France and then went out on Go Lassie Go.

**Danny Farragher**

# Velvet voice from the Valleys is back

**The Stereophonics, Wolverhampton Civic Hall**  
AFTER a spell away from the limelight, Welsh rockers The Stereophonics roared back into action at a full to capacity Civic Hall on Saturday.

And how the fans have missed them. It was good to hear a real band again, cranking out blistering guitar solos and shaking the venerable rock venue to its core. Singer, guitarist and chief songwriter Kelly Jones's sandpaper and velvet rasp is one of the classic rock voices. Opening with melodic rock anthem We Share The Same Sun, this was a gig in which old favourites were balanced by tracks from latest album, Graffiti On The Train, new songs, including Indian Summer and Roll The Dice, were embraced by the fans as enthusiastically as the older hits, including Maybe Tomorrow, Just Looking and Mr Writer.

Despite Kelly teasing the crowd about Wales' rugby win over England, the powerhouse five-piece were welcomed back for an encore featuring Have A Nice Day and Dakota. They are at the LG Arena on November 19. **Leon Burakowski**

**Kelly Jones on stage**

## More than just a one man band

**The Script, LG Arena, Birmingham**  
"TOGETHER we cry," sang Danny O'Donoghue and the hysterical girls in the front row took it literally when asked to join in.

However, rail operators hadn't read the script as their train cancellation meant we missed the start.

It mattered not in the end as Danny and co went through their big songs from albums one, two and #3. The set ended with Danny taking the stage with an Olympic-style torch for Hall of Fame.

Mark Sheehan and Glen Power proved the Dublin lads are not a one man band. Highlight for me was Danny calling a fan's ex to sing to him the song 'Nothing'. **Mark Shipp**



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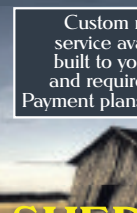
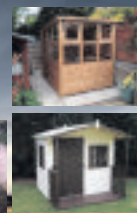
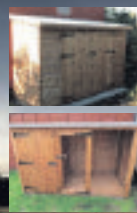
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**SUSAN** 49, fun loving, 5ft 2ins, brown hair/eyes, many interests, needs heart mending. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 204862

**FUN** loving lady, outgoing, honest, caring, likes socialising, seeks older male, 50-70. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 383325 ☞

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**BLONDE** tanned female, trendy, 46, GSOH, likes walks, pubs, nights in, seeks male with GSOH and similar interests for friendship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 392445

**ATTRACTIVE** lady, GSOH, slim, dark hair, 50's, likes walks, films, art, meals out, seeks male with GSOH and similar interests for friendship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 392445

**CARLA** 41, brown hair/eyes, 5ft 2ins, loving, seeking male who likes walks, cinema and romantic meals. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 396127

**BLONDE** tanned female, trendy, 46, GSOH, likes walks, pubs, nights in, seeks male. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 384852

**43YR** old female, bubbly, down to earth, trustworthy, honest, caring, seeks male, 45 plus. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 402945 ☞

**APRIL** big bubbly 21yr old female who enjoys nights in/out, music, WLTm caring, loving older male, 30-45yrs. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 402789 ☞

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**PROFESSIONAL** tall, slim, attractive, bubbly, genuine lady, seeks tall, professional, genuine guy, 40-50. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 215244

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**GENUINE** female, 36, brunette, blue eyes, 5ft 7ins, fun, outgoing, adventurous, GSOH, looking for tall, honest, genuine male for good companion, dates and romance. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 388327 ☞

**YVONNE** looking for Christian male for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 391135 ☞

**FEMALE** looking for stocky male, 50-60 to share a happy life. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 386169 ☞

**BLACK** attractive female, 34, slim, N/S, seeks genuine male for friendship, maybe more. Holby. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 367021 ☞

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**SHROPSHIRE** male, 53, tall, dark, attractive, seeks attractive female for fun and excitement, any age/status. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 367373

**PAUL** 60, medium build, fit, virile with strong needs, WLTm West Midland lady for regular mutual pleasure. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 374821

**PATRICK** 60's, single, likes sports, music, reading, seeks lady friend to share evenings/weekend meetings together. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 396053

**MALE** 47, 5ft 9ins, brown hair/eyes, slim-medium build, likes nights out, GSOH, seeks special female for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 32861

**JIMMY** 53 good looking, fit, genuine, honest, very loving and looking for the same in a woman. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 397157 ☞

**TALL** dark, attractive guy, 49, seeks attractive, younger female for fun. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 316752

**MALE** 60, strong needs, seeks similar lady for regular evening/weekend meetings. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 384219

**DARREN** young looking 37, likes pubs, clubs, cinema, meals out, cosy nights in, seeks female 18-37. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 392049 ☞

**ATTRACTIVE** male, late 40's, seeks attractive female for fun. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 311713

**BRIAN** 60's, ordinary man, strong needs, seeks affectionate lady for close friendship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 396765

**ATTRACTIVE** male, 55, seeks older female, 50-70 for close, adult fun. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 397189

**60'S** male, medium build, fit, high drive, seeks West Midlands lady who needs occasional male evening/weekend company. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 381307

**MICHAEL** 50, nice eyes, seeking female companion for holidays and weekends away, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 401479 ☞

**STEVE** 63, tall, fit, young outlook, likes travel, socialising, holidays, N/S, seeks local lady, 55-60 for friendship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 402931

**MALE** 5ft 8ins, athletic, GSOH, seeks older lady for fun. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 402357

**GENUINE** male, 54, own home, seeks female, any age for fun. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 368871 ☞

**HARDWORKING** 41yr old male, seeks female for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 403131 ☞

**GENUINE** good looking male, 38, seeking genuine female, 25-45 for fun and friendship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 392233

**WEST** Midlands single guy 60, strong, WLTm affectionate lady, your place or mine for uncommitted enjoyment. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 396807

**WARREN** 60's, romantic, WLTm affectionate lady for evenings/weekend meetings and close friendship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 392191

**TALL** mature, solvent male, seeks to wine and dine younger lady. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 401241

**32YR** old slim, dark haired, adventurous, creative, caring, likes music, cycling, photography, seeks female for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 352753 ☞

**VINCE** 52, caring, seeking female for fun and maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 401683 ☞

**TALL** dark, good looking male, 53, seeks attractive female for daytime fun and exciting times. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 393380 ☞

**STEVE** 54, attractive, seeks older lady, 55-75 for mutual adult fun. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 399755

**DAVID** 40, genuine, down to earth, seeking someone for nights out and great times. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 398889 ☞

**OPEN-MINDED** blue eyed, dark haired loving male, seeks genuine, fun loving female for nights in/out and weekends away. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 402313

**ROY** 62, tall, fit, loyal, N/S, looking for that special lady. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 397637 ☞

**ROMANTIC** white male, 47, 5ft 11ins, seeks lady, likes meals out, holidays, cinema and keep fit. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 402243

**PHIL** 55, divorced, 5ft 10ins, slim, OHAC, seeks female, 18 plus for fun. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 401875 ☞

**STEVE** 60, likes sports, meals out, seeks female with view to permanent relationship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 401695

**MALE** 50, genuine, honest, many interests, seeks female for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 394232

**41YR** old male, 6ft, dark hair, likes cosy nights in and good times with, seeks female to share good times with, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 396963 ☞

**STEVE** 60, likes sports, meals out, seeks similar female for permanent relationship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 401441

**YOUNG** 70's male, widower, own transport, active in business, likes weekends away, seeks honest, caring female. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 401203

**IAN** tall, medium build, brown hair, blue eyes, caring, genuine, loving, tender, happy go lucky, likes music, theatre, meals out, romantic nights in, seeks similar female. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 401065 ☞

**TAYLOR** 50, tall, athletic, GSOH, WLTm female, attractive, curvy for friendship, maybe more, food, communication, evenings out, travel. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 399067 ☞

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[www.localgaydate.co.uk](http://www.localgaydate.co.uk)

**MALE** 34, attractive, 5ft 10ins, blue eyes, blond hair, seeks slim male for fun relationship. Any area, can travel. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 311892 ☞



## Women TEXT FOR FUN!

\*see t&c's below. No meetings implied or guaranteed. Texts cost **£1.50** per message. Help Desk: **0844 445 7707**

**GUYS TEXT FOR FUN.** SEND INDEP followed by the box number of the person you wish to chat to and send to **66888** (T&C's below)

**SUSIE**, attractive nurse, works a nightshift so free during the day. Text me. Text INDEP 205021 to 66888

**BORED** and lonely, home alone all day, give me something to brighten up the lonely hours. Text INDEP 205026 to 66888

**ASIAN** female, wants chats with white man. Interested to learn English ways. Text INDEP 204



# What's On! Halesowen

## Theatre company takes on Archer

STOURBRIDGE Theatre Company will be performing Jeffrey Archer's play *Beyond Reasonable Doubt*.

Shows will run until Saturday at Stourbridge Town Hall.

It was Archer's first play, which he wrote in 1987 following another victorious General Election for the Conservative Party with Margaret Thatcher at the helm.

The play opens at The Old Bailey where Sir David Metcalfe is accused of murdering his terminally ill wife. Tickets are £9 for all performances. Log on to [www.stourbridgetheatrecompany.org.uk](http://www.stourbridgetheatrecompany.org.uk)

## Hall playing host to gentlemen choir

THE Gentlemen Songsters Male Voice Choir is performing their spring concert at Dudley Town Hall on Saturday at 7.30pm.

The performance is compared by Susie Riddell, who plays Tracy Horrobin in Radio 4's *Archers* and featuring Jean Martyn who was Britain's Got Talent finalist in 2011.

Other guests are Cotwall End Primary School Choir. Tickets are £10.

## Time for Tarbuck

LIVERPUDLIAN veteran comedian Jimmy Tarbuck is coming to Dudley Town Hall later this year. The gap-toothed gagster will perform on September 23 from 7.30pm. Tickets are £23.

# Veteran acts turn back the clock to rock again

**SOME of the most popular rock bands from the 1980s and '90s are back on the road this spring with concerts planned in Wolverhampton and Birmingham.**

Cult favourites The Inspiral Carpets and angry rockers Skunk Anansie are both in action tonight (Thursday).

Clint Boon's Inspiral Carpets, favourites on the 'Madchester' scene recently released their first new material in 15 years, and will be performing their debut album *Life in its entirety* at Birmingham's O2 Academy 2. Meanwhile, '90s favourites Skunk Anansie, fronted by the formidable Skin, have a gig at Wolverhampton Civic Hall.

The Beat will be getting folks to Twist And Crawl at The Slade Rooms on Saturday, the same venue melodic punk legends The Buzzcocks play on April 4.

Jim Kerr's Simple Minds are back to claim a Glittering Prize on their greatest hits tour at Wolverhampton Civic Hall on April 6.

Mike Peters of The Alarm takes the singer role when Big Country play the Wulfrun Hall on April 24. James bring the Gathering Sound tour to Birmingham O2 Academy on April 25 with guests Echo And The Bunnymen. Synth pioneers OMD are at Birmingham Town Hall on April 29.



Jim Kerr of Simple Minds



Music and surreal comedy from Hull-born entertainer Boothby Graffoe, who is a sometimes collaborator with Canadian band The Barenaked Ladies

## Creative musical comedy

STAND-UP comedian and singer of surreal songs, the multi-talented and eccentric Boothby Graffoe, brings his unique musical comedy to the region this weekend.

His No Mad, No Sane Either tour calls at The Glee Club, in The Arcadian Centre, off Hurst Street, Birmingham, tonight (Thursday), doors open 8pm. Then he has a gig at Wolverhampton venue The Arena, in Wulfrun Street, tomorrow night (Friday) at 8pm.

Other comedy highlights include Justin Moorhouse at The Slade Rooms in Wolverhampton tonight (Thursday) and Richard Herring will be talking about an sensitive part of his anatomy at the same venue tomorrow night (Friday).

## Best of Brum at Dudley Town Hall

A NEW show featuring the Best of Brum promises a night of great music, laughter and anecdotes.

The cast of stars who will be appearing at Dudley Town Hall on April 11 include Jasper Carrot, Bev Bevan (ELO), Trevor Burton (The Move), Geoff Turton (Rockin Berries), Joy Strachan-Brain (Quill) and Danny King plus 'the Bev Bevan Band'.

The show starts at 7.30pm and tickets cost £25.00.

## Legend Simpson lined up for club

STOURBRIDGE Folk Club in Dudley has lined up some fine acts with legendary folk artist Martin Simpson playing there on May 21.

Tickets are £12 and £14 and early booking is recommended.

Also appearing at the club are singer and storyteller Jess Morgan who will be playing there on April 16, tickets are £3 and the Kevin O'Regan band will be playing there on April 9.

## Spikey words

TV star and stand-up comedian Dave Spikey is bringing his Words Don't Come Easy tour to Dudley Town Hall on April 13.

Spikey will be taking the lid off ridiculous newspaper stories and much more. The show starts at 7.30pm and tickets cost £18.50 and £16.50.

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## What's On!

## SATURDAY'S TV 23.03.13

Listings supplied by Press Association

## CHOICE



Sarah Beeny

**Sarah Beeny's Selling Houses**  
**Channel 4, 7pm**  
Remember Property Ladder, when some of the would-be developers had seemingly sketched their renovation plans on the back of a beer mat, but still went on to make a healthy profit? Well, it seems those days are long gone – now Sarah Beeny is coming to the aid of people who are having trouble selling their own homes. According to the old rules of The House Doctor, Rebecca should have a head start, as her home is already neutral – but could it be that her love of magnolia is actually putting buyers off her detached house?

## BBC1

**6.00 Breakfast. 10.00** Saturday Kitchen Live. **11.30** Nigel Slater's Simple Cooking. (R) **12.00** BBC News: Regional News; Weather. **12.15** Football Focus. **1.00** Formula 1 – Malaysian Grand Prix Qualifying Highlights. **2.15** Richard Hammond's Secret Service. **2.55** Kung Fu Panda: Secrets of the Furious Five. **3.15** Film: National Treasure. (2004) **5.15** Film: Kung Fu Panda. (2008)  
**6.40** BBC News: Regional News; Weather.  
**7.00** **Pointless Celebrities.** A Doctor Who special, with contestants Sylvester McCoy, Bernard Cribbins, Jacqueline King, Andrew Hayden-Smith, Nicola Bryant, Sophie Aldred, Louise Jameson and Frazer Hines.  
**7.45** **The National Lottery: Who Dares Wins.** New series. Nick Knowles hosts the game show in which two pairs of strangers team up, each battling to outdo the other by listing as much as they know about a given subject.  
**8.40** **Casualty.** Robyn tries to save her friend's life after an accident at the fairground. Fletcher and Aoi treat a drugged-up Easter bunny and Tom lands himself in hot water with Sam and Zoe.  
**9.30** **Mrs Brown's Boys.** Agnes looks after a robotic baby. (R)  
**10.00** BBC News: Weather.  
**10.15** Film: **The Proposal.** (2009) Romantic comedy, starring Sandra Bullock.  
**12.00** The Football League Show. National Lottery Update. **12.35** Film: **Venom.** (2005) **1.55** Weatherview. **2.00** BBC News.

## BBC2

**6.00** This is BBC Two. **7.30** Great British Menu. (R) **8.00** Great British Menu. (R) **8.30** Great British Menu. (R) **9.00** Great British Menu. (R) **9.30** Great British Menu. (R) **10.00** A History of Britain by Simon Schama. (R) **11.00** Meet the Ancestors. (R) **11.30** Map Man. (R) **12.00** Country Show Cook Off. (R) **1.00** Country Show Cook Off. (R) **1.30** Country Show Cook Off. (R) **2.00** Country Show Cook Off. (R) **2.30** Mastermind. (R) **3.00** University Challenge. (R) **3.30** Hair Bikers' Best of British. (R) **4.20** Restoration Home. (R) **5.20** Film: **The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy.** (2005)  
**7.00** **Flog It!** People are invited to try to make money by selling their antiques at auction. (R)  
**8.00** **Dad's Army.** Walmington-on-Sea leaves its mark on a visiting French general when the platoon repaints Lady Matbys's Rolls-Royce just in time for an official engagement. (R)  
**8.30** **Natural World Special: Attenborough's Ark.** David Attenborough chooses the 10 endangered animals that he would most like to save from extinction, highlighting the work of biologists helping to keep them alive. (R)  
**9.30** **Film: Project Nim.** (2011) Premiere. Documentary about a chimpanzee raised as a human child.  
**11.05** Film: **Zodiac.** (2007) Fact-based crime thriller following the hunt for a serial killer in the late 1960s and early 1970s. Starring Jake Gyllenhaal and Robert Downey Jr.  
**1.35** This is BBC Two.

## ITV

**6.00** CITV: Mickey Mouse Clubhouse. **6.25** The Hive. (R) **6.35** The Hive. (R) **6.45** Dino Dan. (R) **7.00** Dino Dan. (R) **7.10** Canimals. (R) **7.20** Canimals. (R) **7.25** Bookaboo. **7.40** Matt Hatter Chronicles. (R) **8.05** Ultimate Spider-Man. **8.30** Victrolas. **9.00** Jessie. **9.25** ITV News. **9.30** The Jeremy Kyle Show USA. **10.20** My Tasty Travels with Lynda Bellingham. (R) **11.20** Dinner Date. **12.20** ITV News: Weather. (R) **12.55** Film: **Any Which Way You Can.** (1980) **3.00** The Chase: Celebrity Special. **4.00** Midsomer Murders. (R)  
**6.00** **Regional Programme:** Weather.  
**6.15** **ITV News:** Weather.  
**6.30** **New You've Been Framed!** A fresh selection of comical clips.  
**7.00** **Ant & Dec's Saturday Night Takeaway.** The Georgie duo play an undercover prank on One Direction, present more entertainment, games and surprises, and give a member of the audience a chance to win the Ads.  
**8.20** **The Cube.** A police officer continues his challenge from last week, and a health club manager also competes to win a jackpot of £250,000.  
**9.20** **The Jonathan Ross Show.** With Danny Boyle, Ian McShane, Nicholas Hoult, Bobby Wornack and Damon Albarn. Last in the series.  
**10.20** **ITV News:** Weather.  
**10.35** Film: **You, Me and Dupree.** (2006) Comedy, starring Owen Wilson, Matt Dillon and Kate Hudson.  
**12.35** **Jackpot247.** **3.00** Ladette to Lady: Australia. (R) **3.50** ITV Nightscreen.

## CHANNEL 4

**6.00** The Treacle People. (R) **6.10** The Hoobs. (R) **6.35** The Hoobs. (R) **7.00** Freeports on 4. **7.30** The Grid. **7.55** The Morning Line. **8.55** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **9.25** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **9.55** Frasier. (R) **10.25** Frasier. (R) **10.55** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **11.25** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **11.50** The Simpsons. (R) **12.15** The Simpsons. (R) **12.45** Deal or No Deal. **1.45** Channel 4 Racing. **4.05** Come Dine with Me. (R) **4.35** Come Dine with Me. (R) **5.05** Come Dine with Me. (R) **5.35** Come Dine with Me. (R)  
**6.10** **Come Dine with Me.** Russell Stubbs hosts the final party in Crewe and Nantwich, Cheshire. (R)  
**6.35** **Channel 4 News.**  
**6.55** **4thought.tv.** Religious dictates and customs concerning diet.  
**7.00** **Sarah Beeny's Selling Houses.** New series. The presenter helps homeowners in Oxford who are eager to attract buyers for their properties, allowing them to view one another's houses for improvement ideas.  
**8.00** **Grand Designs.** Kevin McCloud follows people designing their dream home. (R)  
**9.00** **Film: The Time Traveler's Wife.** (2009) A woman falls for a time traveller, but his journeys back and forth in her personal history put a strain on their marriage. Romantic sci-fi drama, with Rachel McAdams.  
**11.05** **Big Fat Quiz of the 90s.** Jimmy Carr grills five celebrities into the 1990s. (R)  
**12.40** **Film: Notorious.** (2009) **2.45** Southland. **3.25** Hollyoaks. (R) **5.30** Countdown. (R)

## CHANNEL 5

**6.00** Milkshake! **10.00** Power Rangers Samurai. (R) **10.35** Batman: The Brave and the Bold. **11.00** Inside Hollywood. **11.05** Robson's Extreme Fishing Challenge. (R) **12.05** Whale Adventure with Nigel Marven. (R) **1.05** CSI: Miami. (R) **2.00** CSI: Miami. (R) **2.55** Film: **The Green Berets.** (1968) **5.45** Film: **Beach Red.** (1967)  
**7.35** **5 News Weekend.**  
**7.40** **NCIS.** An army scientist goes missing, so Abby is asked to fill in for him on a top-secret research project – but Gibbs later learns her life could be in danger. (R)  
**8.30** **NCIS.** Part one of two. The agents travel to LA to work on an investigation that escalates into a high-priority case, and Tony begins to pry into Ziva's life. (R)  
**9.25** **Law & Order: Special Victims Unit.** Revealing photos of a 15-year-old rape victim are leaked on the internet, but Stabler is distracted from the case when his son and his shady school friend go missing.  
**10.25** **Law & Order: Criminal Intent.** Four men discover they are all being blackmailed over the death of a friend, but when one of them is killed, Nichols and Stevens uncover a mystery that spans 22 years.  
**11.20** **CSI: NY.** Mac realises his stalker's motivation. Crime drama, with Gary Sinise. (R)  
**12.15** **SuperCasino.** **4.00** HouseBusters. (R) **4.25** Divine Designs. (R) **4.50** County Secrets. (R) **5.05** Hana's Helpline. (R) **5.15** The Milkshake! Show. (R) **5.40** Thomas & Friends. (R) **5.50** Roary the Racing Car. (R)

## DIGITAL

**BBC Three**  
**7.00** Merlin. **8.30** Film: **Lara Croft: Tomb Raider – The Cradle of Life** (2003) **10.20** Russell Howard's Good News Extra **11.05** Family Guy **11.45** American Dad!  
**BBC Four**  
**7.00** Britain's Natural World **7.50** The Rabbits of Skomer **8.00** Carved with Love: The Genius of British Woodwork **9.00** Film: **The Silence** (2010) **10.55** Slade at the BBC **11.15** It's Slade  
**ITV2**  
**4.30** You've Been Framed! **6.30** Lawson: The Hot Desk **6.45** Film: **King Kong** (2005) **10.20** Celebrity Juice **11.05** Film: **Couples Retreat** (2009)  
**ITV3**  
**3.40** Film: **The Young Ones** (1961) **5.50** Agatha Christie's Poirot **7.00** Lewis. The prime suspect in a teenager's rape is murdered. **9.00** Foyle's War **11.00** A Touch of Frost  
**ITV4**  
**2.05** Film: **The Boys in Blue** (1983) **4.00** Film: **All Quiet on the Western Front** (1979) **7.00** **T Legends** **8.00** River Monsters: Lair of Giants **10.05** Film: **Species: The Awakening** (2007)  
**E4**  
**3.35** Rules of Engagement **6.00** The Big Bang Theory **7.00** Youngers **7.30** Happy Endings **8.00** How I Met Your Mother **8.30** **Broke Girls** **9.00** Film: **Babylon AD** (2008) **10.50** The Big Bang Theory **11.50** The Cleveland Show  
**Film4**  
**3.05** Those Magnificent Men in Their Flying Machines (1965) **5.40** Australia (2008) **8.50** Danny Boyle Interview Special **9.00** Slumdog Millionaire. (2008) Oscar-winning drama, starring Dev Patel **11.25** Danny Boyle Interview Special **11.35** 28 Days Later (2002)

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Pasta** £3.95	Chicken Nuggets (10pc)** £1.99	1/40 Cheeseburger** £1.95		Extra Salad** £0.20	WINGS £2.99
Haddock** £3.95	Sausage £1.70	1/40 Cheeseburger** £1.95			SAUCES
Fish Bites (R) £1.50	Sausage (jumbo) £1.99	1/40 Cheeseburger** £1.95			Chili, Mayo, Mint, BBQ, Garlic Mayo, Lemon, Mint
Scampi (10) £2.50	Sausage £1.99	1/40 Cheeseburger** £1.95			Yoghurt & Sweet Chili
Scallops £2.95	Smoky Spring Roll £1.40	1/40 Cheeseburger** £1.95			Kids Meal Combo £2.95
Fish Pie** £2.95	Pickled Onion £0.30	1/40 Cheeseburger** £1.95			CHIPS WITH ANY ONE COMBINATION
Tinned Tuna £0.90	Pickled Onion £0.30	1/40 Cheeseburger** £1.95			3 Nuggets, 3 Fish Bites
Fish Cake £0.95	Cooked Mussels £1.79	1/40 Cheeseburger** £1.95			1 Fish Cake or Small Sausage
Fish Bites £0.30	Vinegar £0.95	1/40 Cheeseburger** £1.95			Cornies with a Capri-Sun, Lollypop & Sachet of Sauce
		1/40 Cheeseburger** £1.95			** order your meal on entry



## What's On!

## SUNDAY'S TV 24.03.13

Listings supplied by Press Association

## CHOICE



Tony Robinson

**Time Team Channel 4, 5.30pm**  
It's hard to believe that it wasn't Time Team that uncovered Richard III in that Leicester car park. It seems like only yesterday that the programme was launched, but after 20 years of hard work and exciting family entertainment, its experts will down tools this year. Having invested £4million pounds in British archaeology, Time Team will leave a mark not just on the hearts TV viewers but on British historical research. Tony Robinson celebrates the show's achievements, from its beginnings in a Somerset field, to excavating Buckingham Palace's garden.

## BBC1

**6.00 Breakfast** 9.00 The Andrew Marr Show. **10.00 The Big Questions**. **11.00 Sunday Politics: Weather for the Week Ahead**. **12.20 Pasover: Why Is This Night Different?** **12.50 Countryfile** (R) **1.45 Bargain Hunt** (R) **2.30 Formula 1 - Malaysian Grand Prix Highlights**. **4.30 Escape to the Country** (R) **5.30 Songs of Praise**. **6.05 Deadly 60 on a Mission**. Steve Backshall searches for lethal beasts in Venezuela and Brazil, encountering an electric eel, the endangered Orinoco crocodile, a venomous centipede and the maned wolf. **6.35 BBC News: Regional News; Weather**. **7.00 Countryfile**. How the skies above the Brecon Beacons have earned the national park a rare honour and why British troops are being trained in basic agriculture, including Weather for the Week Ahead. **8.00 Antiques Roadshow**. Fiona Bruce and the team pay a second visit to Chatham's Historic Dockyard in Kent. Items include jewels once gifted by King Farouk of Egypt and a mandolin made by a German POW. **9.00 Our Girl**. One-off drama about a young woman with no prospects who joins the Army in the hope of finding herself. But first she has 14 weeks' basic training to get through. Lacey Turner stars. **10.30 BBC News: Regional News; Weather**. **10.55 Regional Programme**. **11.25 Film: The Great Raid** (2005) Second World War drama, with Benjamin Bratt. **1.30 Weatherview**. **1.35 BBC News**.

## BBC2

**6.00 This Is BBC Two**. **7.20 Film: My Favorite Wife**. (1940) **8.45 Gardeners' World**. (R) **9.15 The A to Z of TV Gardening**. **10.00 Saturday Kitchen Best Bites**. **11.30 Paul Hollywood's Bread**. (R) **12.00 Live Athletics**. **2.05 EastEnders**. (R) **4.00 Rowing World Cup**. **5.00 Secrets of Our Living Planet**. (R) **6.00 Flag It!** **7.00 Dragons' Den**. A horror writer gets a surprising reaction when he tries to scare the Dragons into backing him, and two sisters make a second bid to impress the panel after being rejected in 2005. (R) **8.00 Best of Top Gear**. Highlights from the most recent series of the motoring magazine, featuring Jeremy Clarkson, Richard Hammond and James May taking part in challenges and stunts. **9.00 Toughest Place to Be a Firefighter**. An East Sussex fireman works in the Brazilian state of Mato Grosso. Last in the series. **10.00 Mock the Week Looks Back at Entertainment**. A selection from the show's archives on the theme of entertainment. **10.30 It's Kevin**. Comedian Kevin Eldon gets to the bottom of the British obsession with queuing. **11.00 Film: Adventureland**. (2009) A college graduate falls in love while spending a summer working at a ramshackle amusement park in the 1980s. Comedy, with Jesse Eisenberg. **12.40 Sign Zone: How to Paint a Queen: A Culture Show Special**. (R) **1.40 Holby City**. (R) **2.40 This Is BBC Two**.

## ITV

**6.00 CITV: Mickey Mouse Clubhouse**. **6.25 The Hive**. (R) **6.35 The Hive**. (R) **6.45 Dino Dan**. (R) **7.00 Dino Dan**. (R) **7.10 Animals**. (R) **7.20 Animals**. (R) **7.25 Bookaboo**. **7.40 Matt Hatter Chronicles**. (R) **8.05 Kick Buttowski - Suburban Daredevil**. **8.15 Kick Buttowski - Suburban Daredevil**. **8.30 Almost Naked Animals**. (R) **8.45 Almost Naked Animals**. (R) **9.00 The Aquabats Super Show**. **9.25 ITV News**. **9.30 The Jeremy Kyle Show USA**. **10.25 Film: Carry On Follow That Camel**. (1967) **12.15 Film: Carry On Camping**. (1969) **1.55 ITV News: Weather**. **2.05 Doc Martin**. (R) **3.05 Food**. **3.10 Food**. **3.15 Food**. **3.20 Food**. **3.25 Food**. **3.30 Food**. **3.35 Food**. **3.40 Food**. **3.45 Food**. **3.50 Food**. **3.55 Food**. **4.00 Food**. **4.05 Food**. **4.10 Food**. **4.15 Food**. **4.20 Food**. **4.25 Food**. **4.30 Food**. **4.35 Food**. **4.40 Food**. **4.45 Food**. **4.50 Food**. **4.55 Food**. **5.00 Food**. **5.05 Food**. **5.10 Food**. **5.15 Food**. **5.20 Food**. **5.25 Food**. **5.30 Food**. **5.35 Food**. **5.40 Food**. **5.45 Food**. **5.50 Food**. **5.55 Food**. **6.00 Food**. **6.05 Food**. **6.10 Food**. **6.15 Food**. **6.20 Food**. **6.25 Food**. **6.30 Food**. **6.35 Food**. **6.40 Food**. **6.45 Food**. **6.50 Food**. **6.55 Food**. **7.00 Food**. **7.05 Food**. **7.10 Food**. **7.15 Food**. **7.20 Food**. **7.25 Food**. **7.30 Food**. **7.35 Food**. **7.40 Food**. **7.45 Food**. **7.50 Food**. **7.55 Food**. **8.00 Food**. **8.05 Food**. **8.10 Food**. **8.15 Food**. **8.20 Food**. **8.25 Food**. **8.30 Food**. **8.35 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## What's On!

### Film Choices

#### Monday

##### Road House, Channel 5, 10pm

A philosophy-reading kung fu expert gains a reputation as the best bouncer around, and is hired by the owner of a rowdy Missouri bar to keep the peace. When he fires some of the establishment's corrupt staff, he incurs the wrath of a local crime boss who has a stranglehold on the town's businesses. Action thriller, starring Patrick Swayze, Ben Gazzara, Kelly Lynch, Sam Elliott and blues singer Jeff Healey. (1989)

#### Tuesday

##### Cold Creek Manor, BBC1, 12.15am

A wealthy couple decide to set themselves a challenge by buying a remote, run-down house with the idea of giving it a new lease of life. Instead they discover the property has a sinister past, the locals do not take kindly to outsiders and the former owner, recently released from prison, will do whatever it takes to drive them away. Thriller, starring Dennis Quad, Sharon Stone, Stephen Dorff, Juliette Lewis and Christopher Plummer. (2003)

#### Wednesday

##### Bringing Up Baby, BBC2, 12pm

A zany heiress tries to acquire the help of a timid palaeontologist in looking after her pet leopard. As she starts to fall for the bemused academic, she decides to stop him marrying his severe assistant, and accidentally endangers his efforts to get funding for his beloved museum. Screwball comedy, starring Cary Grant, Katharine Hepburn, May Robson, Charlie Ruggles and Barry Fitzgerald. (1938)



Fame, Thursday, BBC1, 12.05am

#### Thursday

##### Fame, BBC1, 12.05am

Alan Parker's musical drama charting the trials and aspirations of four talented teenage students at New York's School for the Performing Arts as they try to balance training for a career in showbusiness with a more conventional education. Starring Irene Cara, who also sings the Oscar-winning theme tune, with Lee Curreri, Gene Anthony Ray and Paul McCrane. (1980)

#### Friday

##### The Iron Giant, Channel 4, 7.10am

A huge robot falls from outer space and crash-lands in a small American town, terrifying the locals with its fearsome appearance. The kindly giant is befriended by a lonely youngster – but trouble looms on the horizon when a corrupt government agent sets his sights on destroying the visitor. Family animated adventure based on the children's story by poet Ted Hughes. With the voices of Vin Diesel, Eli Marienthal, Jennifer Aniston and Harry Connick Jr. (1999)

### Pick of the Week

## The only thing getting hot and cross is the buns

These days, you'd be hard pushed to find anyone who isn't a fan of The Great British Bake Off.

Something about the gentle, kindly nature of the show, and its judges Mary Berry and Paul Hollywood, serves as the perfect antithesis to the veritable glut of talent shows that dominate the schedules with their frequently barbed, scathing comments which seem designed to give contestants a nervous breakdown.

Things never get too personal in the safety of the Bake Off kitchen, and although Paul has been known to set the odd bottom lip wobbling when he's deemed a bake too uneven or a bottom too soggy, on the whole his and Mary's criticisms are well received – after all, they are experts in their field.

So, there are few pairings better placed to offer a masterclass on baking than these two.

They gave us a helping hand last Christmas when they provided top tips on everything from perfect puddings to mega mince pies, and now they're

back with The Great British Bake Off Easter Masterclass (BBC2, 8pm), to help us cope with the trials and tribulations that Easter baking represents.

The kids are at home for a fortnight, and the grown-ups get a four-day weekend, so it's the perfect time to get busy in the kitchen.

However, there's always a few pitfalls to avoid, as well as a few expert tips that really, if you'll excuse the expression, put the icing on the cake – and here, Mary and Paul explain them all.

They give step-by-step instructions, including easy to follow demonstrations of some of their favourite seasonal recipes, giving us all the best possible chance of replicating their successes.

Among the treats on offer are perfect hot cross buns, without which no Easter would truly be complete.

Another traditional treat for the time of year is simnel cake, a light fruitcake traditionally enjoyed after Lent, for which the pair have a sumptuous recipe. So far, so good, but this is Easter – where is the chocolate?

Well, there's a guide to creating delicious chocolate custard tarts – perfect for using up any spare bits of Easter Eggs that may be lying around (although that's not usually too much of an issue for many households).

Also on the menu is a zingy and refreshing lemon meringue nest serves as the perfect accompaniment to the rich cuisine on offer.

With all these sweet treats to sample, one might be worried about piling on the pounds – but you only have to look at Mary to know that striking a balance isn't impossible.

As she told the Guardian recently, "It's all about things in moderation."

I do eat a good portion all the way through the Bake Off – because they've taken the trouble to make something, their parents are watching, and they want to see me have a proper slice.

The next day I'm pretty careful. I do try to eat lots of salads and healthy foods.

But cakes are healthy too – you just eat a thin slice. There's a lot of cheer in a cake."



The Great British Bake Off Easter Masterclass, Tuesday, BBC2, 8pm

### Best of the Rest

#### Monday

##### Boris Johnson: The Irresistible Rise BBC2, 9pm

Some think he's a national embarrassment, others find him endearingly eccentric. Love him or loathe him, Boris Johnson is arguably the most recognisable face in British politics. From his appearances on Have I Got News For You to his position as Mayor of London, he has a degree of accessibility and personality that otherwise seems to be immensely lacking in modern politics, leading some to tip him as a future Prime Minister. In candid interviews, Michael Cockerell reveals the real Boris Johnson, showing sides of him that few have seen, including his tangled love-life and his working relationship with David Cameron. There's more to the man than perhaps many even realise.

#### Tuesday

##### Live International Football ITV, 7.30pm

Roy Hodgson takes his England side to Podgorica City Stadium for a 2014 World Cup Group H qualifying fixture against Montenegro, who have proved to be the surprise package of the campaign so far. Branko Brnovi's men sat atop the group following their opening four fixtures and were on a three-match winning streak in competitive encounters heading into their clash with Moldova on Friday. Meanwhile, the Three Lions have already dropped points against both Poland and Ukraine, and will be keen to find some consistency as they aim to book a place at the finals in Brazil, but don't have the best of records against the relatively young eastern European nation.

#### Wednesday

##### Lightfields ITV, 9pm

The spooky drama comes to an end this week with the Felwoods in 1944 believing it's time to leave Lightfields – it holds too many memories of Lucy that they would rather forget. In 1975, Vivien goes missing, and it's up to Clare, with help from Tom, to find her. When she's eventually located, the troubled woman is on the verge of remembering what happened on a fateful night many moons ago. Finally, in 2012, Luke is missing and his grandparents begin to wonder if Lucy has taken him. But she isn't the only person who may endanger the lad, while a B&B guest with links to Pip's past has a shocking story to tell.

##### Pompeii: The Mystery of the People Frozen in Time BBC1, 9pm

Margaret Mountford may be best known for lurking in the background of The Apprentice, raising her eyebrows at some of the contestants' daffier remarks, but she also has a keen interest in ancient history – she even stepped down from her role as Alan Sugar's right-hand woman to finish her PhD in Papyrology. Now, she's sharing her enthusiasm in this one-off documentary, which sees her investigating the events of 79AD, when a volcanic disaster left the citizens of Pompeii preserved in ashes.

#### Thursday

##### Kids with Tourette's: In Their Own Words ITV, 9pm

Growing up is tough for children these days, although while most will fret about maths homework and playing kiss chase in the school playground, the few featured in this insightful documentary have a far rougher ride. Connor, Callum and Marco are affected by Tourette's Syndrome, but while there's no cure for them, hope comes in the form of a pioneering treatment programme at Great Ormond Street Hospital. Cameras have followed the boys and their families over a six-month period, as they have their say about living with the condition, and the obstacles they face on a daily basis.

##### Imagine: Beyonce – Life Is But a Dream BBC1, 10.35pm

She's the singer, songwriter, actress, entrepreneur, wife and mother with 16 Grammy awards to her name, who once got most of Glastonbury doing the Single Ladies dance. Yes, we're talking about Beyonce, the former Destiny's Child member turned solo superstar. But while she's one of the

most high-profile women in the world, how much do we really know about her? Well, we're about to discover a whole lot more, as Beyonce adds 'director' to her résumé, and brings us this documentary, which offers a unique insight into her life. And if you're slightly surprised to see this film appearing under the BBC's Imagine arts banner, forget the musical snobbery – Alan Yentob also profiled rapper Jay-Z, way back in 2008.

#### Friday

##### Piers Morgan's Life Stories: Britt Ekland ITV, 9pm

Britt Ekland came to the UK in 1964 and was immediately swept off her feet by Peter Sellers, who asked her to marry him following a whirlwind, 10-day romance. She agreed, but the union, which produced their daughter, Victoria, lasted just four years. Her other most notable partners include Warren Beatty, Rod Stewart, George Hamilton and Patrick Leitchfield. Here, Ekland talks about her life and career.

##### Ancient Egypt: Life and Death in the Valley of the Kings BBC2, 9pm

The two-part documentary, which began last week, draws to a close tonight – what more surprises can Egyptologist Joann Fletcher possibly have in store? Well, as she clambers into rarely visited tombs, explores a treasure trove of long-buried objects and examines mummies, we find she has a lot of astounding facts up her sleeves. She explains how, 3,500 years ago, life was little more than a dress rehearsal for the perfect afterlife.



Lightfields, Wednesday, ITV, 9pm

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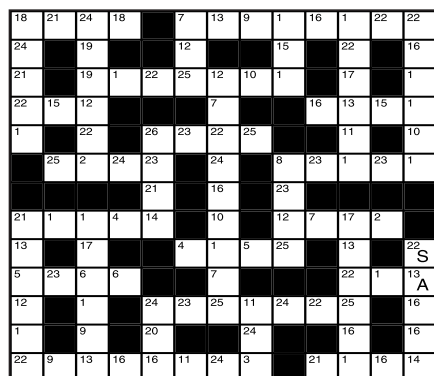


## Brain Gym

No.213

## Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:

W	K	N	Z	C	R	F	G	P	H	Q	T	M
O	L	U	X	S	E	F	D	J	Y	A	B	V

## Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.

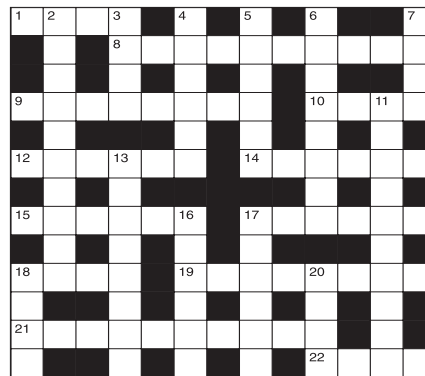
## Cryptic Clues:

## Across

1. Foil some of the peerage (4)
8. Early form of rock music! (6,4)
9. A glass ship (8)
10. Cars go round the curves (4)
12. Cut in whisky? (6)
14. His map is transformed by accident (6)
15. Slightly exaggerate an account and blush (6)
17. Stand at one over the eight, we hear. Gracious! (6)
18. It's used to make a toast in wine (4)
19. Authorise mother to come back first, that's agreeable (8)
21. Will he cure plane-sickness? (4-6)
22. The advantage that being sharp gives one? (4)

## Down

2. Precious little company inside for the prematurely forward (10)
3. Make a sound come-back in a speech original in content (4)
4. Start off with a meal outside (6)
5. It rouses after the manner of strong spirit (6)
6. It's criminal to take a couple of fools in (8)
7. A wise man changes as he grows older (4)
11. A baby substitute (10)
13. A double-crosser with more than one sort of merit (3-5)
16. Nothing illogical about a boy (6)
17. An artist has to draw it to live! (6)
18. Workers that supply most of our wants (4)
20. Measure about a hundred to start with (4)



## Quick Clues:

## Across

1. Stumble (4)
8. Hateful (10)
9. Lively (8)
10. Way out (4)
12. Infrequent (6)
14. Not liable (6)
15. Tarry (6)
17. Habit (6)
18. Inform (4)
19. Almanac (8)
21. Deal out (10)
22. Profound (4)

## Down

2. Relative (10)
3. Couple (4)
4. Glass vessel (6)
5. Centre (6)
6. Lax (8)
7. Despatched (4)
11. Unlikely (10)
13. Control (8)
16. Shrink back (6)
17. Hue (6)
18. Neat (4)
20. Want (4)

## Sudoku



Fill in the grid below so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

## LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS &gt;

9	1	6	3	5	8	2	7	4
2	3	5	4	1	7	6	8	9
7	4	8	2	9	6	3	5	1
3	9	2	5	8	4	7	1	6
5	7	1	9	6	3	4	2	8
8	6	4	7	2	1	9	3	5
4	8	3	6	7	5	1	9	2
6	5	9	1	3	2	8	4	7
1	2	7	8	4	9	5	6	3

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS: CRYPTIC - Across: 7 Fault; 8 Project; 9 Embargo; 10 Serf; 12 Agreements; 15 Reminders; 18 Sorts; 19 Mansion; 21 Willing; 22 Ledge. Down: 1 Afterwards; 2 Bulbs; 3 Stir; 4 Oppose; 5 Consumer; 6 Herring; 11 Fishmonger; 13 Gain-said; 14 Emerald; 16 Damage; 17 Finds; 20 Nile. QUICK - Across: 7 Curve; 8 Trolley; 9 Indulge; 10 Elver; 12 Aristocrat; 15 Triviality; 18 Label; 19 Tempter; 21 Control; 22 Dread. Down: 1 Occidental; 2 Grade; 3 Well; 4 Stress; 5 Foremost; 6 Slavery; 11 Retrograde; 13 Rallies; 14 Disband; 16 Little; 17 Steer; 20 Mode.



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- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

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#### Afternoon Tea and stay at the Waldorf

Two days departing May 5

★ **PRICE FROM £209**

- Return coach travel
- Overnight bed and breakfast accommodation at the Waldorf Hilton, London
- Afternoon tea in the Waldorf Hilton, Homage Grand Salon Restaurant
- Guided walking tour of the Waldorf Hilton Hotel
- Free time in London
- Services of a tour driver and tour manager
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

Organised by Diamond Holidays (ABTA W0552)

#### Afternoon Tea at The Ritz

Two days departing May 5, August 11

★ **PRICE FROM £199**

- Return coach travel
- Overnight bed and breakfast accommodation at an outer London hotel
- Visits to Fortnum & Mason and Harrods
- Tour manager escort to The Ritz
- Afternoon tea at The Ritz
- Free time in London
- Glass of Champagne at the Champagne Bar St Pancras
- Services of a tour driver
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

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#### ROWLEY REGIS, ALWIN ROAD

Stylish and quiet living. This immaculately presented modern detached house, close to local shops, features 2 reception rooms, fitted dining kitchen, downstairs wc, 2 double bedrooms, 1 single bedroom, master bedroom with en-suite, stylish bathroom with shower, driveway and garage parking, gas central heating, double glazing. EPC: C

**£695 PCM**



#### CRADLEY HEATH, NEWLAND GARDENS

Spacious well situated link-detached bungalow in cul de sac position. Large lounge, fitted kitchen opening into superbly proportioned full width conservatory overlooking private rear garden. 2 double bedrooms, bathroom with shower, garage & driveway, gas central heating/double glazing. Available immediately. Unfurnished or furnished to suit. EPC: D

**£675 PCM**



#### HALESOWEN, WHITTINGHAM ROAD

The best position for Newfield Primary School and Halesowen College. This large 3 bedroom semi-detached house features fitted kitchen with double oven and gas hob, utility room/storage area, huge lounge with patio doors to a nice sized rear garden, modern bathroom with y' shaped bath and shower, driveway parking and garage. EPC: F

**£650 PCM**



#### HALESOWEN, SANDERSON PLACE

Luxury living in Hayley Green. This superb luxury 1st floor apartment offers spacious accommodation including open plan lounge/kitchen, 2 double bedrooms, master with en-suite, a further well appointed bathroom with shower, gas central heating, double glazing and allocated parking. EPC: B

**£625 PCM**



#### DUDLEY, STOURBRIDGE ROAD

Totally refurbished to a good standard. A terraced four bedroom property close to Dudley town centre featuring a lovely entrance hall with minton flooring, charming lounge and separate dining room with feature fireplace, new large kitchen with oven/hob, downstairs wc, family bathroom with shower and a wonderful rear garden. Viewing recommended to appreciate this property. Available immediately. EPC: F

**£625 PCM**



#### OLDBURY, ST MATTHEWS ROAD

Refurbished to a high standard. This 3 bedroom mid-terrace property in Oldbury/Quinton area has lounge, fitted kitchen, blow air central heating, white bathroom suite with shower, separate wc, rear garden with parking. Available immediately. EPC: D

**£600 PCM**



#### MERRY HILL, MADISON AVENUE

Flexible accommodation. A spacious unfurnished modern townhouse, within walking distance of Merry Hill shopping centre, featuring kitchen, downstairs WC, dining room/study, lounge, bathroom, 3 bedrooms, master en-suite shower room, allocated parking space. EPC: C

**£595 PCM**



#### STOURBRIDGE, THE PUMPHOUSE

Contemporary fully furnished luxury living. Generous sized lounge with state of the art SKY+HD TV/DAB chrome sockets, 1 double bedroom with fitted wardrobes, wall mounted LCD/DVD, stunning fitted kitchen with integrated appliances, beautiful bathroom with shower, electric central heating, allocated parking space with visitor spaces, secure ported access phone system. Viewing highly recommended. EPC: C

**£575 PCM**



#### CRADLEY HEATH, CODSALL ROAD

Spacious living. Great location for Haden Hill Leisure Centre, Old Hill train station and local shops, this good sized 3 bedroom semi-detached house features a light and airy lounge, large kitchen, house bathroom with shower, nice sized rear garden, gas central heating, parking for 2 cars. Available March 1st. EPC: C

**£550 PCM**



#### TIPTON, PEARTREE AVENUE

Cul-de-sac location. This deceptively large 3 bedroom terraced house is undergoing a redecoration and re-carpeting. It features a spacious lounge, large modern fitted kitchen, house bathroom with shower, nice sized garden, driveway parking and in a quiet cul-de-sac location. EPC: C

**£550 PCM**



#### HALESOWEN, HAGLEY STREET

Fantastic refurbishment over 2 floors. A fully refurbished modern duplex apartment above an electrical shop in the very centre of Halesowen, featuring a large open plan living area with modern fitted kitchen, 2 double bedrooms, bathroom with shower. Rent to include £40 fixed electric charge. EPC: C

**£550 PCM**



#### CRADLEY HEATH, MEADOW WALK

Quiet location and modern living. A fully redecorated semi detached house within a popular residential area featuring gas central heating, spacious living room, modern fitted kitchen, house bathroom, 3 bedrooms, master bedroom with en-suite shower room, rear gardens, driveway parking. EPC: D

**£550 PCM**



#### HALESOWEN, COCKSHEDS LANE

In a convenient location near to Blackheath town centre. This 3 bedroom unfurnished semi-detached property features living room, fitted kitchen, downstairs wc, bathroom with shower. Benefiting from gas central heating and double glazing. On road parking. Available early April. EPC: F

**£550 PCM**



#### ROWLEY REGIS, POWKE LANE

Great value close to Blackheath town centre. A large and spacious 4-bed-terrace unfurnished house featuring 2 reception rooms, dining room, modern fitted kitchen with cooker, downstairs bathroom with wc, 3 bedrooms (2 with fitted wardrobes), upstairs wc, gas central heating, double glazing, on road parking. A bargain price. EPC: D

**£525 PCM**



#### BARTLEY GREEN, LUDFORD ROAD

Located in the Woodgate area. Ideally situated for Woodgate Primary School, this newly decorated 3 bedroom terraced house features: fitted kitchen, large lounge, house bathroom with shower, driveway parking for 2 cars, mature rear garden. EPC: D

**£525 PCM**



#### QUARRY BANK, EVERS STREET

Complete refurbishment. Set in a quiet residential area, within minutes of Merry Hill, local shops, buses to Merry Hill and Cradley Heath. This mid terraced house features 2 double bedrooms, 1 reception room, large kitchen, house bathroom with shower, nice sized rear garden, on road parking. EPC: D

**£500 PCM**



#### CRADLEY HEATH, COPPICE ROAD

A 2 bedroom semi-detached house recently fully refurbished comprising front reception room, spacious rear lounge, fitted kitchen, house bathroom with shower, gas central heating, double glazing, front and rear gardens, on road parking. EPC: C

**£495 PCM**



#### DUDLEY, ANCHOR DRIVE

Modern and comfortable living. This 2nd floor apartment is set in a quiet location, with easy access to Dudley, Tipton, Wednesbury and the M5. The property features 2 double bedrooms, modern fitted kitchen with integrated electric oven and hob, white bathroom suite with shower, spacious lounge with patio doors opening to a Juliet balcony, electric heating, double glazing, allocated parking space. EPC: C

**£475 PCM**



#### SMETHWICK, LEICESTER CLOSE

Set within well maintained gardens. Large and spacious 1st floor apartment with wall to wall windows in lounge. The apartment features a large kitchen with cooker and washing machine, 1 double bedroom with fitted wardrobes, shower cubicle bathroom. Available immediately. EPC: E

**£475 PCM**



#### DUDLEY, SOUTHGATE WAY

A stunning and spacious well presented unfurnished top floor apartment featuring 1 double bedroom and 1 single bedroom, electric storage heating, double glazing, open plan living room with fitted kitchen, house bathroom with shower, allocated parking space. Viewing highly recommended. Available immediately. EPC: B

**£425 PCM**



#### NETHERTON, BAPTIST END ROAD

An unfurnished 1st floor flat comprises: living room, fitted kitchen, 1 double bedroom, bathroom with shower, electric storage heating, double glazing, parking space to rear, communal garden. EPC: D

**£395 PCM**

# Home of Property

## Large house situated near to village centre



The property in Wombourne village has a wide frontage with driveway one side, garage the other

**A DECEPTIVELY spacious detached family home within walking distance of the centre of Wombourne village is on the market based on offers around £449,950.**

Jasmine Cottage in School Road is described as being ideal for modern families with four reception rooms providing ample living space together with four double bedrooms and three bath/shower rooms.

On the ground floor there is access to the cellars from the hall, and a cloakroom with WC and corner wash hand

basin, while the sitting room has a stone fireplace with tiled hearth.

There is also a family room with brick fireplace with tiled hearth and a door to the dining room which has double doors to the lounge with brick fireplace with living flame coal effect gas fire.

The breakfast kitchen has been refitted with a range of contemporary units with work surfaces, stainless steel sink unit, exposed brick piers, space for gas cooker with stainless steel extraction chimney above, plumbing for dishwasher and washing machine.

On the first floor the main bedroom has a walk-in wardrobe and en suite with corner double shower, vanity with

wash basin and WC and there is a second bedroom with en suite of double shower cubicle, WC and wash hand basin.

There are two more bedrooms and a bathroom with panelled bath, vanity with wash basin and WC.

Outside the property has a wide frontage with a driveway on one side providing off-road parking and leading to a garage, while the rear garden has a full width paved terrace with steps to shaped lawns with paved paths, patio and well stocked and matured beds and borders.

Call estate agent Berriman Eaton on 01902 747744.



Berriman Eaton is handling the sale of this four-bed detached home in High Park Crescent, Sedgley

## An open plan family room/conservatory

**A FOUR-bedroom, two bathroom detached family home in High Park Crescent, Sedgley, is for sale based on offers around £274,950.**

The property benefits from double glazing and gas central heating, with accommodation briefly comprising of an open plan family room incorporating the kitchen and conservatory.

On the ground floor the guest cloakroom has a white suite of WC and wash hand basin while the lounge has a bay window and timber fire surround with inset electric fire.

Double doors from the hall lead to what the agents describe as a "stunning" open plan family room/kitchen area with a range of units including base cupboards and drawers with granite style work tops, space for American style fridge freezer, range style cooker with extractor over, wall and display units, island area with cupboards under, built-in dishwasher and sink with mixer tap.

The family area has double doors to the rear garden, with an archway leading to a conservatory with doors to the garden, and there is a utility room with space and plumbing for washing machine and door to store room.

On the first floor is a galleried landing with feature oak and chrome balustrade, a master bedroom with white en-suite of corner shower cubicle, wash hand basin and WC as well as three more bedrooms and a bathroom with white suite of spa bath with shower over, WC and wash hand basin.

Outside the house is set back from the road behind a dwarf wall with driveway, with the rear garden having a decked patio area, lawn and bark chipping play area.

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NEW

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**Offers Over £125,000**

Detached three bedroom property comprising lounge, extended dining room, extended kitchen, upstairs shower room, rear garden and driveway.

## PUBLIC NOTICE



EPC D

PUBLIC NOTICE PROPERTY ADDRESS: (& LAND ADJOINING) 29 LYNBROOK CLOSE, NETHERTON, DUDLEY, WEST MIDLANDS, DY2 9HE.

We are acting for the mortgagees and have received an offer of £122,000 on the above property.

Any interested parties must submit any higher offers in writing to the selling agent before an exchange of contracts takes place.

## Summit Place, Dudley



NEW

EPC E

**Offers Over £120,000**

Detached two bedroom property comprising lounge, kitchen/diner, downstairs shower room, upstairs shower room and master bedroom.

## Nigel Road, Dudley



NEW

EPC Awaiting

**Offers Over £110,000**

A two bedroom semi detached bungalow briefly comprising lounge, kitchen, bathroom. Also benefitting from a garage and rear garden.

## Laurel Road, Dudley



NEW

EPC Awaiting

**Offers Over £100,000**

Semi detached four bedroom property briefly comprising lounge, living room, dining room, kitchen, upstairs WC, front and rear gardens.

## Ambleside Close, Bradley



EPC Awaiting

**Offers Over £85,000**

A two bedroom terraced property briefly comprising lounge, kitchen/diner, bathroom, front and rear gardens, driveway and allocated parking.

## Salop Street, Dudley



NEW

EPC Awaiting

**Offers Over £80,000**

Semi detached property briefly comprising lounge, dining room, kitchen, family bathroom, garden, rear access for parking and garage.

## Clifton Street, Bilston



EPC E

**£80,000**

A two bedroom end terraced property briefly comprising two reception rooms, kitchen, downstairs WC, upstairs bathroom and rear garden.

## King Charles Road, Halesowen



SSTC

EPC E



**£210,000**

An extended four bedroom semi detached house comprising kitchen, two reception rooms and an en-suite. Halesowen

## PUBLIC NOTICE



EPC D

PUBLIC NOTICE - 92 ALBERT ROAD, HALESOWEN, B63 4SL

We are acting for the mortgagees and have received an offer of £135,000 on the above property.

Any interested parties must submit any higher offers in writing to the selling agent before an exchange of contracts takes place.

## Westfield Road, Halesowen



EPC Awaiting

**Offers Over £100,000**

A semi detached house comprising lounge, kitchen/breakfast room, two bedrooms, bathroom, drive and garage. Halesowen

## St. James Avenue, Rowley Regis



EPC C

**£90,000**

Modern semi detached property comprising lounge, kitchen, two bedrooms, family bathroom, drive, garage, front and rear gardens. Halesowen

## Beecher Road East Halesowen



EPC D

**£90,000**

Semi detached property comprising lounge, kitchen, three bedrooms, bathroom, front and rear gardens. Halesowen

## Sutherland Road, Cradley Heath



EPC C

**£100,000**

A modern mid terraced house comprising lounge, kitchen, conservatory, WC, two bedrooms, rear garden and allocated parking space. Halesowen

## Greenfield Avenue, Cradley Heath



EPC D

**Offers Over £80,000**

Traditional property comprising lounge, dining area, kitchen, three bedrooms, family bathroom, rear garden and drive. Halesowen



# Motoring

Compiled by Motoring  
Editor Sharon Walters

## The new Ford Kuga is an all-round winner



Extra ground clearance is a bonus

**I KNOW** you're supposed to choose your family transport with sensible features like boot space and economy at the top of the list – and driving pleasure near the bottom, bumping along with alloy wheel options and the cupholder count.

Well, Ford wasn't listening when this agenda was published and the new Kuga, a fresh take on the successful first version, goes straight to the top of the class for anyone who doesn't want to lose the fun of driving, moving from a nimble hatch to family holdall.

And, after listening to the people who bought Kuga Mk1, the newcomer is roomier in the back and boot (but a tiny bit narrower and lower) and actually cheaper, model for model than the car it replaces. That shows both the pace of progress in making things for less, and perhaps, reflects the sobering fact that today's new Ford faces a formidable

**By Ian Donaldson**

ble 38 rivals, when only 19 threatened nine years ago.

Still, it's worth Ford giving the new Kuga its best shot. When the first ones arrived in 2008 the market for SUVs was modest; today the sports utility vehicle is the third largest new car sector.

And a highly profitable one, I'll wager, with buyers happy to add to the bottom line with tasty extras.

Prices now start at £20,895, more than £1,000 less than the last model's entry level version. That buys a 1.6 litre petrol Kuga in Zetec trim and front-wheel drive.

Only one in ten buyers are likely to take this route, preferring instead to head up the price list for a diesel with all four wheels driven. The range tops out at £29,795 for the automatic diesel in Titanium X trim, but the non-X Titanium test car is the predicted biggest seller.

That costs £355 less than before but adds a little more power and economy, along with easily folded rear seats (a single lever's tug each side), emergency assist, which calls 999 if you can't after a crash, hill start assist, which keeps the brakes on for a moment as you foot moves to the accelerator pedal, and enhanced cruise control with speed limiter.

Pay £700 more and you'll amaze your friends by opening the boot with a waggle of a foot beneath the rear bumper, where sensors detect your request and play Open Sesame.

### Shopping

It closes the same way and would save you dropping arm-loads of shopping on a wet supermarket car park. Cheaper to buy less shopping, though.

Parked alongside the old model, the 2013 Kuga looks sharper and more interesting, with the same wraparound headlight treatment you'll find on a Focus, which also, more subtly, donates the platform the car is built on and which makes it so good to drive.

Perhaps the opposition (newcomers from

Honda and Toyota with CR-V and RAV4, respectively, spring to mind) lack the simple joy of driving that modern Fords almost always provide, and which the height and extra ground clearance of the Kuga does little to dilute.

The test car's 161bhp diesel pushed the Kuga along with poise and verve, its steering feeling utterly connected to the road and gears ready to click into the next ratio like something more Silverstone than Surbiton.

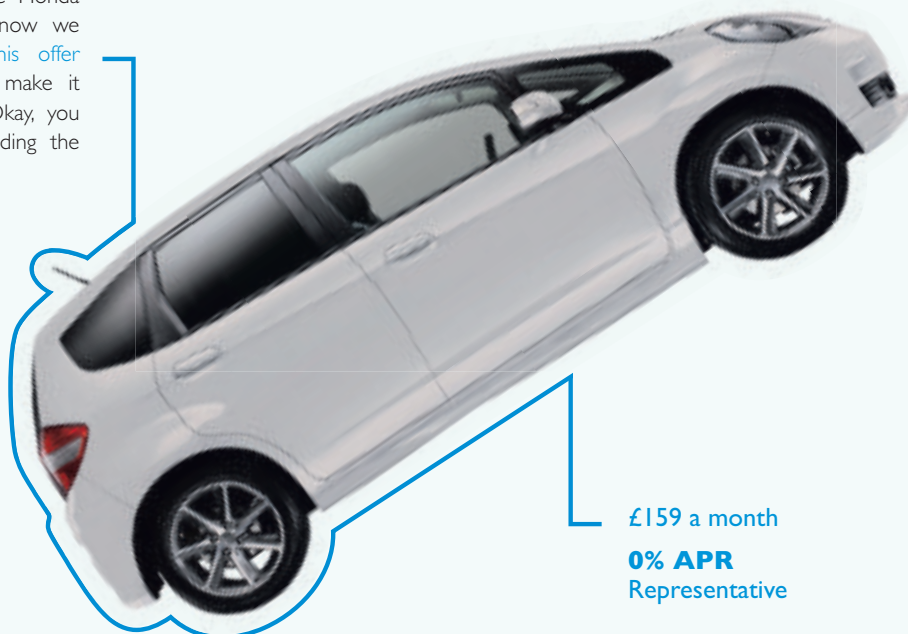
A brief foray off-road proved the Kuga will cope with flinty tracks and grassland churned gently towards mud by fellow Kugarists. A gymkhana parking field will hold no horrors.

It managed the road test route with a certain firmness, that was oddly, but pleasantly, lacking in a cheaper, less powerful diesel (£23,395 in Zetec trim) that also felt sweeter under the bonnet and hardly slower than its more powerful sibling. The bargain of the range, perhaps?

## Your essential guide to the world of motoring

Your attention please. That's all we're after. We just thought we'd be honest about that. That's The Honda Way, after all. And now we have it, hopefully **this offer** on the Jazz Si will make it worth your while. Okay, you can get back to reading the paper now.

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Fuel consumption figures for the Jazz 1.4 i-VTEC Si Manual in mpg (l/100km): Urban 42.2 (6.7), Extra Urban 57.7 (4.9), Combined 50.4 (5.6). CO<sub>2</sub> emissions: 129g/km.

Model shown: Jazz 1.4 i-VTEC Si Manual in White Orchid Pearl at £15,000 On The Road including pearl paint. Terms and Conditions: New retail Jazz Si registrations from 2 January 2013 to 31 March 2013. Subject to model and colour availability. Offers applicable at participating dealers and are at the promoter's absolute discretion. Honda Aspirations (PCP): £159 per month example shown based on Jazz 1.4 Si Manual in metallic/pearl paint with 3 years' 0% APR with 29% deposit. Annual mileage of 10,000. Excess mileage charge 3p per mile. You do not have to pay the Final Payment if you return the car at the end of the agreement and you have paid all other amounts due, the vehicle is in good condition and has been serviced in accordance with the Honda service book and the maximum annual mileage of 10,000 has not been exceeded. Indemnities may be required in certain circumstances. Finance is only available to persons aged 18 or over, subject to status. All figures are correct at time of publication but may be subject to change. Credit provided by Honda Finance Europe Plc. 470 London Road, Slough, Berkshire SL3 8QY.



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Official Government Environment Data. Fuel consumption figures mpg (litres/100km) and CO<sub>2</sub> emissions (g/km). Chevrolet Spark Range: Urban 42.8 (6.6), Extra Urban 67.3 (4.2), Combined 55.4 (5.1) CO<sub>2</sub> emissions 119g/km. Chevrolet Aveo Range: Urban 34.0 (8.3) - 67.2 (4.2), Extra Urban 55.3 (5.1) - 85.6 (3.3), Combined 44.8 (6.3) - 78.4 (3.6), CO<sub>2</sub> emissions 147 - 95g/km.

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Sep 05 (55) Toyota RAV4  
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Apr 07 (07) Vauxhall Zafira  
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Jun 08 (08) VW Polo  
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Dec 09 (59) VW Fox 55,  
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Nov 02 (52)  
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May 03 (03) Mini One,  
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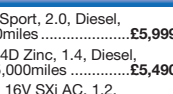
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All conditions  
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Saturdays only £5 a pitch  
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some simple guidelines you  
can follow to ensure that you  
are not purchasing from a  
Puppy Farmer.

1. Try to ensure you visit the puppy whilst it is still with it's Mother.
  2. Do not arrange to collect a puppy from any other location than that of the breeder.
  3. Ensure that you are given any KC documentation, if pedigree.
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**BORDER COLLIES**  
Lovely gentle and intelligent  
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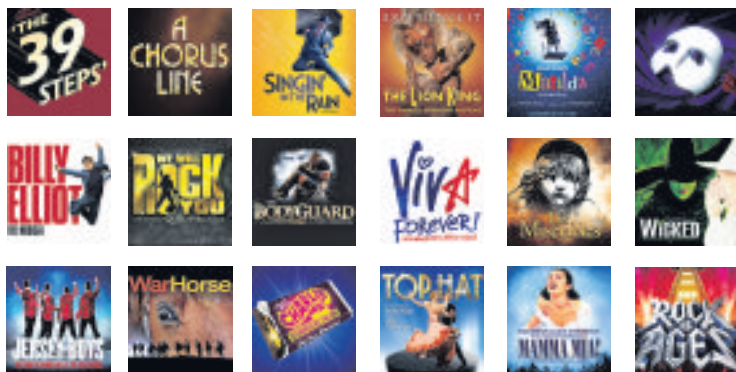
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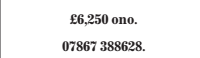
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## It's goals galore as Tipton miss out

**Ellesmere Rangers 4 Tipton Town 2**  
TIPTON TOWN conceded a 68-second goal, were two down in five minutes, level after 12, but lost two more goals at the end.

Courtney's hopeful strike eluded keeper Jack Hayfield before just creeping inside the far post as Ellesmere Rangers belied their lowly Midland Alliance position with a fifth-minute Steve O'Reilly header.

A minute later Danny Dubidat cut the deficit and Tipton levelled in the 12th minute as Nigel Penney's pass was glanced home by Karl Edwards. Two minutes after that, Dave Maguire turned Edwards' point-blank effort over.

Penney and Hayfield had leg injuries so Tipton brought on Matt Martin and Ryan Kimberley, the latter turning a 35th-minute goal-bound strike over.

A save by Kimberley at the feet of Sharrod in the 49th minute kept Tipton in it and then he denied Durrell.

Dubidat's clever footwork won a corner from which Lewis Haycock headed wide. Tipton's Martin screwed the ball only inches wide of the home goal.

After an Edwards effort drifted wide on the hour Tipton were caught out in the very next minute when Josh Brown outpaced the visitors' defence down the left flank before deftly cutting in and driving home.

Tipton's Andy Dickson made way for Nathan Waite in the 68th minute. Ellesmere wrapped up the points in their next attack, Durrell's powerful drive taking a huge deflection to finish in the Tipton net.

## Football results and fixtures

**Dudley & Cradley Heath Joe Stanton Memorial Trophy Semi-Final:** Britannia 5 Three Crowns 1. **Round 3:** Pensnett Utd 3 Wackers 2. **Ray Turley Memorial Competition Group 2:** King William 1 Bagbridge 4. **Premier Division:** Bush Ath 7 Lloyds 0. **Division 1:** Hadcroft Ryrs 1 Forest Falcons 0; Malt Shovel Ath 8 Dudley Utd 0; Sedgely White Lion 1 Ocker Hill Waggon 2; Barley Mow Wdrs 3 Halesowen Members 3; Village Dudley 0 Dudley Olympic 9.

**Fixtures Sunday, March 24**  
**Joe Stanton Memorial Trophy Semi-Final:** Pensnett Utd v Bush Ath. **Premier Division:** Spills Meadow v Three Crowns.

**Ray Turley Memorial Competition Group 2:** King William v Lloyds; Bagbridge v Wackers. **Division 1:** Britannia v Malt Shovel Ath; Dudley Olympic v Barley Mow Wdrs; Forest Falcons v Ocker Hill; Dudley Utd v Sedgely White Lion; Village Dudley v Hadcroft Ryrs.

# Finch flies through water to victories

## Swimming

HALESOWEN Swimming Club triumphed at the Worcester County Championships.

They dominated the event, staged over three weekends.

Halesowen turned out in force and, for the fifth year running, had more swimmers, took part in more events and produced more finalists than any other club at the championships.

The swimmers landed 12 senior, 10 junior and one age group titles and also produced 57 age group event winners. Halesowen swimmers had the largest gold medal haul to top the table.

Star of the show was Chloe Finch, who grabbed five senior titles in 200m, 400m, 800m and 1,500m freestyle and 400m individual medley.

She also added an extraordinary nine junior titles in 100m, 200m, 400m, 800m and 1,500m freestyle, 100m and 200m butterfly and 200m and 400m individual medley.

Josh Bradley won four senior titles in 50m butterfly, 100m breaststroke and 100m and 200m individual medley. Brian Steatham won two senior titles in 50m freestyle and breaststroke while Zach Collins secured the 200m freestyle title.

Mark Laing, at the age of just 13, won an impressive 50m freestyle title against his age 15 counterparts.

In the overall age group competition, Laing won the age 13 group, while India Hanke and Imogen Vaughan-Hawkins were runners-up in their sections and third places went to Lauren Hill and Kate Morrice.

In the individual age group events, Finch was again outstanding by winning 15 age group first places.

Jacob Darby secured nine first places, Laing eight, Hanke and James Cuthbert four, Bradley three, and Ruby Fell, Hill and Jack Simpson two apiece.

Other individual event winners were Georgia Bird, Hill, Morrice, Sophie Page, Vaughan-Hawkins, Jakob Baker, Collins, Jacob Smith and Steatham. Laing set championship-best performances in the four events of 50m and 100m freestyle, 50m backstroke and 100m freestyle.

Finch did likewise in the 400m freestyle, 200m butterfly, 200m individual medley and 1,500m freestyle.

Steatham was awarded the prestigious Alan Babb trophy for breaking a record by the largest margin.

Finch was presented with the Brian Craddock trophy for going closest to county records at the championships.

## Bragging rights go North in shield tie

### Halas Hawks

**Girls League Withymoor Colts U17 0 Halas Hawks U17 3**

NEAT passing, despite a heavy pitch, saw Halas score on the stroke of half-time through Duley Williams.

After the break, Halas continued to press and were rewarded with a second goal from Williams and one by Kate Duffy.

The game was preceded by a one-minute silence for fatal stabbing victim Christina Edkins, who had friends in the Halas team.

**Boys League Halas Hawks U9 East 3 Halas Hawks U9 North 5**

The North squad took the local bragging rights in this Merit Shield game.

The East took the lead through Aiden Mitton only for Callum Deeming to equalise. East struck again through Brandon Hale to lead 2-1 at half-time.

The game turned with a second-half hat-trick from North's Callum Deeming; Lewis McGing broke away to add a fifth for North before a long-range thunderbolt from East's James Knight completed the scoring.

**Halas Hawks U9 West 0 Trysull Tigers U9 0**

An even match might have gone either way with both keepers in fine form. Kyle Winwood had an excellent game in attack for Halas and almost won it with a lob which just cleared the bar.

**CS Colts U10 1 Halas Hawks U10 West 2**

Player of the match George Priest was outstanding at the heart of the Halas defence in their top of the table clash with CS Colts.

Altrin Alshiqi settled Halas' nerves with the first goal and although CS Colts levelled, Priest made no mistake from the penalty spot for the winner.

**Wrens Nest U14 3 Halas Hawks U14 1**

Halas started well and led through Shane Billingham. But Wrens Nest drew level just before half-time. They were on top for much of the second half and two quick goals gave them the victory despite a late Halas rally. Jack Finch, who gave a solid display at the back, was Halas man of the match.

**Trysull Tigers U15 1 Halas Hawks U15 3**

First-half goals from Charlie Bagley, Josh Mason and Dominic Hipkiss were enough to tame a feisty Trysull Tigers side in a 3-1 win.

# Baggies stand firm in war of attrition

## Stoke 0 Albion 0

**ONE day in the future, Albion and Stoke will serve up a classic.**

But, for the time being, Baggies fans will have to content themselves with small crumbs of comfort when it comes to battling with the Potters, *writes Steve Madeley.*

Last season, Roy Hodgson's side finally ended the 30-year hoodoo that had so frustrated Albion supporters on trips to the red and white half of the Potteries.

And on Saturday, Steve Clarke's men provided further evidence that, while clashes between these sides still make for painful viewing, the days when the Baggies were battered into submission at the Britannia Stadium are gone.

The sight of their side standing toe-to-toe with Tony Pulis's men and refusing to give an inch must have cheered travelling Albion fans, who had little to smile about in entertainment terms from a thoroughly forgettable game on a damp and windy afternoon.

### Surprise

The pattern of the match was utterly predictable, given that Baggies and Potters fans have seen the same script played out countless times in recent years.

It was a dull, uneventful, attritional affair lacking in any fluidity that looked destined from the opening few minutes to result goal-less.

In fact, it ended without a meaningful save from either Stoke keeper Asmir Begovic or Baggies counterpart Ben Foster and the only surprise, in the light of recent Albion heartbreaks in the fixture, was that Pulis's men did not snatch something out of nothing to leave Clarke and Co pointless and frustrated.

They had one chance to deliver their customary sucker-punch to the Baggies' jaw when substitute Kenwyne Jones failed to make clear contact with a decent chance late in stoppage time.

But that, after 93 minutes of virtually



Stoke's Steven Nzonzi challenges Claudio Yacob at the Britannia



Peter Odemwingie is left to rue a missed Baggies chance

unbroken tedium, was the best chance of a game that was a dead cert to be last up on Match of the Day and was a little fortunate to make it into the final edit at all.

For Albion, however, there was one big positive to cling to from a flat afternoon as their side, led by colossal centre-backs Gareth McAuley and Jonas Olsson and aided by the tenacious Claudio Yacob, made it clear throughout that they are soft touches no longer.

Since the clubs were promoted together from the Championship in 2008, Stoke's strong-arm approach to Premier League survival has flown in the face of the Baggies' progressive methods under a series of managers.

Yet the teams of Tony Mowbray and Roberto Di Matteo were too often barged aside by Pulis's battering ram and even the current England boss, who did so much to

remove the soft underbelly that had previously held back the Baggies' Premier League progress, found the Potters an extremely tough nut to crack.

But Hodgson's men claimed a landmark victory last season after another ugly spectacle and, while Clarke's charges had to settle for a single point at the weekend, they underlined the fact that the solid performance of 12 months earlier was not a one-off.

On Saturday, the Potters went through their full, rudimentary repertoire of robust tactics. But, unlike on so many frustrating occasions in the recent past, they discovered the Baggies were unyielding in their determination.

In aesthetic terms, travelling fans journeyed up a slow-moving M6 fearing another brutal spectacle and their fears proved well-founded.

The DNA of these two clubs is not compat-

ible and, yet again, they produced 90 minutes of desperately poor football.

The hosts were the prime culprits but the Baggies, too, struggled to retain possession with their customary conviction and were dragged too often into matching the Potters' brand of play.

The first half did not bring a chance worthy of the name and the opening moments of the second period saw in-form Baggies forward Romelu Lukaku fail to capitalise on two difficult headed opportunities in moments that encapsulated his own frustrating afternoon.

Only deep in time added on, when the ball fell towards Jones, did Foster have genuine cause for concern but the effort flew straight at the keeper.

It left Baggies fans satisfied with the efforts of their side but with precious few lasting memories to take away.



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## Battlers beaten at home in semi

**Wednesbury 3 Handsworth 17**  
WEDNESBURY made their exit from rugby's Lewis Taylor Trophy at the semi-final stage.

Handsworth began brightly up the slope with the wind at their backs, testing the hosts with high kicks.

But Wednesbury, tackling keenly and with their scrum operating well, were proving difficult to crack.

On 20 minutes, Handsworth were penalised at the breakdown and Wednesbury kicked the penalty.

But Handsworth responded when TJ Clarke collected a hurried clearance on the 22m line. He smashed his way forwards and quick recycled ball saw Ed Lea dive over in the corner to give the visitors a two-point lead at half-time.

They found themselves under early pressure in the second half with Wednesbury looking to use the elements to pin Handsworth deep in their own territory.

They had a near-miss with an attempted charge down and also went close only to be denied by a last-ditch Thomas Lea tackle.

Handsworth scored again when a kick and chase produced a loose ball and Clarke dived over.

Centre Glenn Farnham then ripped through the cover to score under the posts, Paul Rogers converting for a 14-point lead.

## Hickin hits a hat-trick

**Halas Hawks Ladies 6 Tamworth Ladies 2**

HALAS HAWKS Ladies consolidated third place in the Birmingham County Premier with a big win.

The first two half was goalless and the net bulged eight times in the second.

After the first-half stalemate, Halas were stung into action by a Tamworth goal at the start of the second.

Halas were level within a few minutes after Tracey Haycock hit home.

And when Erin Hickin, returning from injury, came on as a substitute, it was one-way traffic.

Hickin collected a hat-trick, Haycock got her second goal and Tash Berry also scored.

Tamworth got a consolation goal and also brought a superb save from 17-year-old keeper Olivia Woollams on debut, but were well beaten.

More Halas - Page 47



Becky Jones on the ball for Halesowen

## Defeat brings blast from the boss

**Rushall Utd Ladies 1 Halesowen Town Ladies 0**

MANAGER Scott McKee described Halesowen's performance as "the worst I've seen" after they went out of the Birmingham Open Cup.

A goal three minutes from time sealed their fate as Rushall could afford to hit the bar with a penalty.

"This is the wake-up call for the team," said McKee, whose side top Birmingham County Division Two. "This was unacceptable."

A young Rushall side began on the attack in this last-eight tie, but were kept at bay by the strong defence of Charlotte Byatt and

Dominique McKee. Halesowen went close when Nicola Finlay met a Lyndsey Glover corner with a header which grazed the bar.

Becky Jones' through ball to Rachel Letford created a chance for striker Sian Whittle, who was denied by desperate defending.

Rushall were also pressing, but solid tackles from Shel Thomas kept them in check.

Rushall raised their game in the second half to put Halesowen on the back foot; Town's Lauren Gilbert was a strong force

on the left, but the Halesowen strikers were struggling to make an impact.

Then came Rushall's penalty but the miss, combined with some fine Hanna Tromans goalkeeping, kept the score blank.

The turning point came when influential midfielder Dani Reade had to leave the pitch after suffering an accidental kick to the head.

Rushall piled forward and scored the crucial goal. Halesowen responded, but to no avail.

# HALES AND HEARTY AS REG STEPS OUT

**Old Halesonians 4 Warwick University 2**  
REG ROGERS has completed a stunning achievement for Old Halesonians. His appearance in Saturday's game means the club founder has represented the first XI in every decade of the club's 50-year history.

Rogers came on at the second-half pushback in the home clash against Warwick University, which saw the team complete their promotion campaign with a good win.

It was a day of celebration for the squad, who secured promotion from the West Midlands Premier two weeks ago and were determined to end the season on a high.

Rogers, the club treasurer, was warmly applauded after he came off the pitch.

The 2011 Dudley CVS Sporting Champion Award winner said afterwards: "It was a wonderful surprise and an honour to be there. 'I shall treasure the memory always.'"

Warwick started solidly, but were unable to break down the strong Hales back line.

### Feisty

The Halesowen side broke the deadlock when their top scorer Tom Bulteel found the net to make it 1-0.

The home side did face a temporary setback when Doug Houghton was shown a yellow card for dissent.

Following the feisty reverse fixture back in December, Hales knew the importance of keeping their discipline and began to find some flow in their play.

Chris Hill will claim an assist for Hales' second goal, as it was finally turned in by a fortunate deflection off a Warwick defender.

Hill drilled the ball into the 'D' as he attempted to find Bulteel at the back post,

### Hockey

but the ball never reached his strike partner, as the deflection wrong-footed the goalkeeper to give Hales a 2-0 lead at half-time.

Normal service resumed as Hales continued to pile the pressure. Chris Wattlely had a chance to increase the lead, but was unable to direct the ball into the goal from close range.

A lapse in concentration allowed Warwick to grab a goal back but the home side hit back almost immediately when Bulteel restored their two-goal cushion as he grabbed his brace.

The game had become stretched, as both sides employed a counter-attacking tactic.

Hales were cruising to another three points, but the students looked to spoil the promotion party when an uncharacteristic mistake from Alex Fraser saw them get a second goal.

Hales continued to hit them on the counter and grabbed their fourth with the final touch of the game.

Player-coach Simon Palmer, who had sidelined with a calf injury, came on in the final minute and set up Hill.

Now Old Hales look forward to next season's campaign in Midlands One.



Reg Rogers completes his record of playing for the firsts in every decade for 50 years

## Mark's men too strong for Warwick

**Warwick 2 Old Halesonians 6**  
MARK RIGBY'S seconds kept up their scintillating form with a big win away at second-placed Warwick, who were undefeated at home all season at the start of the day.

The hosts needed just a point to secure promotion and with Hales safe, it looked a tough order for the visitors. Warwick threw everything at Hales early on but they held firm and took the lead through Charles Palmer.

Warwick then scored twice in 10 minutes but Hales' new-found confidence saw them react positively and man of the match Dan Scarrett equalised with the last play of the half.

With Hales in the ascendancy on the counter, the hosts looked rattled.

Firstly, Scarrett added to his tally after he followed up to put the ball into an empty net, after Graham Knight's one-on-one was saved.

The Rigby's short corner strike, which gave Hales a two-goal advantage.

Warwick had a goal over ruled and were aggrieved to be given a free hit instead.

Hales went for the jugular, as Palmer scored his second before Knight made it six.

**Results:** Old Hales Ladies firsts 3 Southport 2, Bournville 2 Old Hales thirds 0, Old Hales fourths 2 Worcester 3, Old Hales fifths 3 Drottwich 0, Barford Tigers 2 Old Hales Badgers 3.

## Tipton's cup hope is worth the Waite

**Loughborough University 3 Tipton Town 2**

TIPTON kept their Polymac Services Cup final hopes alive with a stirring second-half show in the semi-final first leg at Loughborough.

They trailed 2-0 and 3-1 before a late strike from Nathan Waite boosted their hopes for the return.

Town keeper Neil Page was in action on seven minutes as he denied the dangerous Daniel Nti and then saved well from Jordan Barker on 12 minutes.

Tipton's Richard Huckfield and Adam Wattlely were forced into hurried clearances but pressure was rewarded on 17 minutes as Nti drove past Page.

Tipton's Danny Dubidat forced a corner, but later they were thankful for a timely intervention by Karl Edwards to deny Barker.

The home side went further ahead on 41 minutes when Cook's drive beat Page. Edwards went close for Tipton just before the break and shortly afterwards he was denied by home keeper Jack Howard.

Page made a stunning save to thwart Nti before Tipton scored on 68 minutes with a well-struck volley from Mike Wardle.

Tipton went close to leveling as Tom Tonks' drive was booted off the line with keeper Howard stranded, but Loughborough's Barker then beat Page with a scorcher.

Stung by the reverse after a period of dominance, Tipton hit back five minutes from time. Huckfield forced the ball into a crowded home penalty area and Waite reacted quickest to stab it home.

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